AVENGELYNE
DIGITAL

THE AVENGELYNE OMNIBUS

CREATED BY

ROB LIEFELD

CATHY CHRISTIAN

OMNIBUS ASSEMBLED BY

RUSS CASSEDAY

W/GUIDANCE BY MARAT MYCHAELS

FEATURING

THE ORIGINAL MINI-SERIES 1-3

THE POWER MINI-SERIES 1-3

THE DEADLY SINS MINI-SERIES 1-2

THE REGULAR SERIES ISSUES 1/2, 1-5, 0

AVENGELYNE IS BASED ON THE LIKENESS OF CATHY CHRISTIAN!

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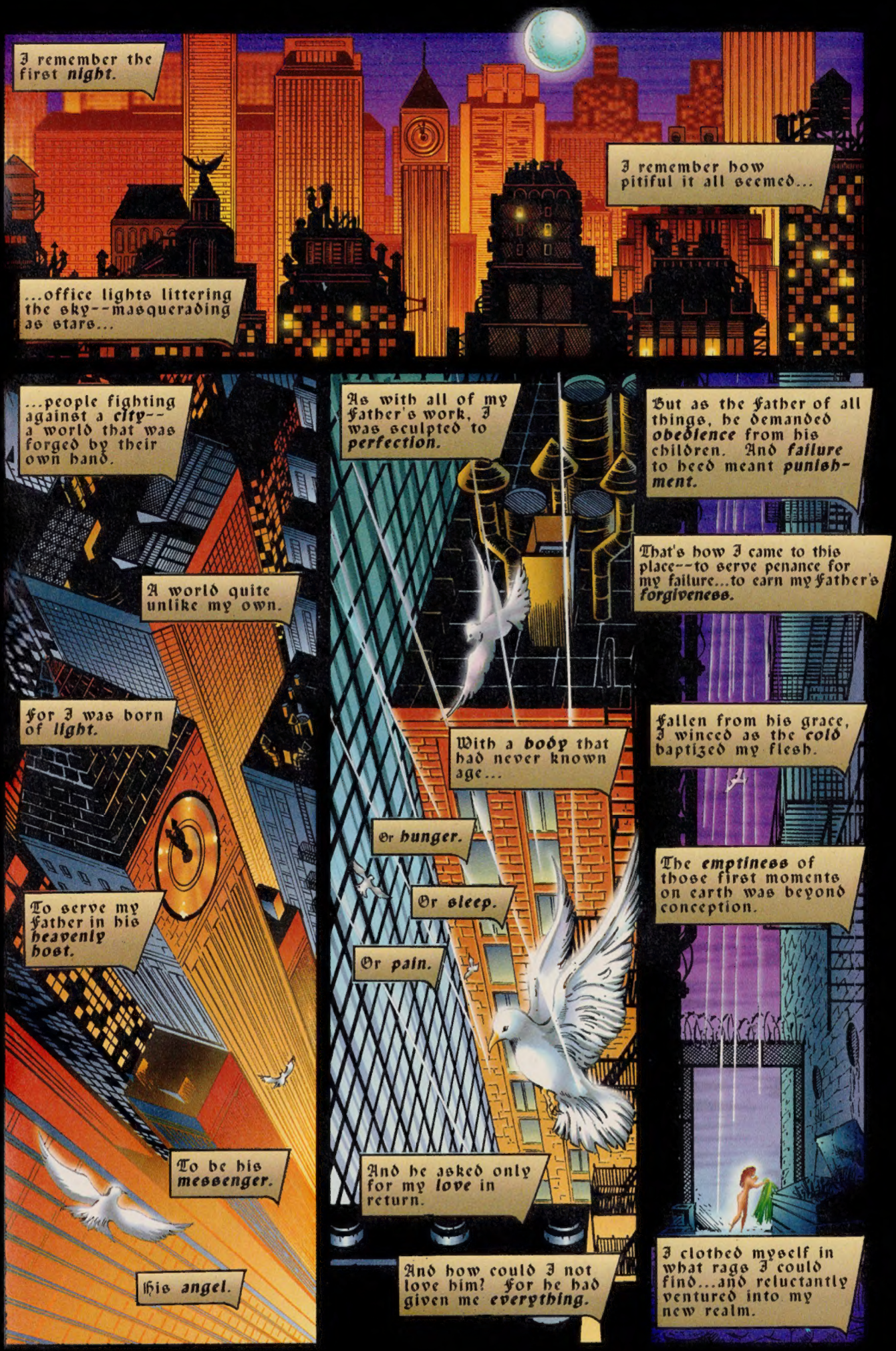
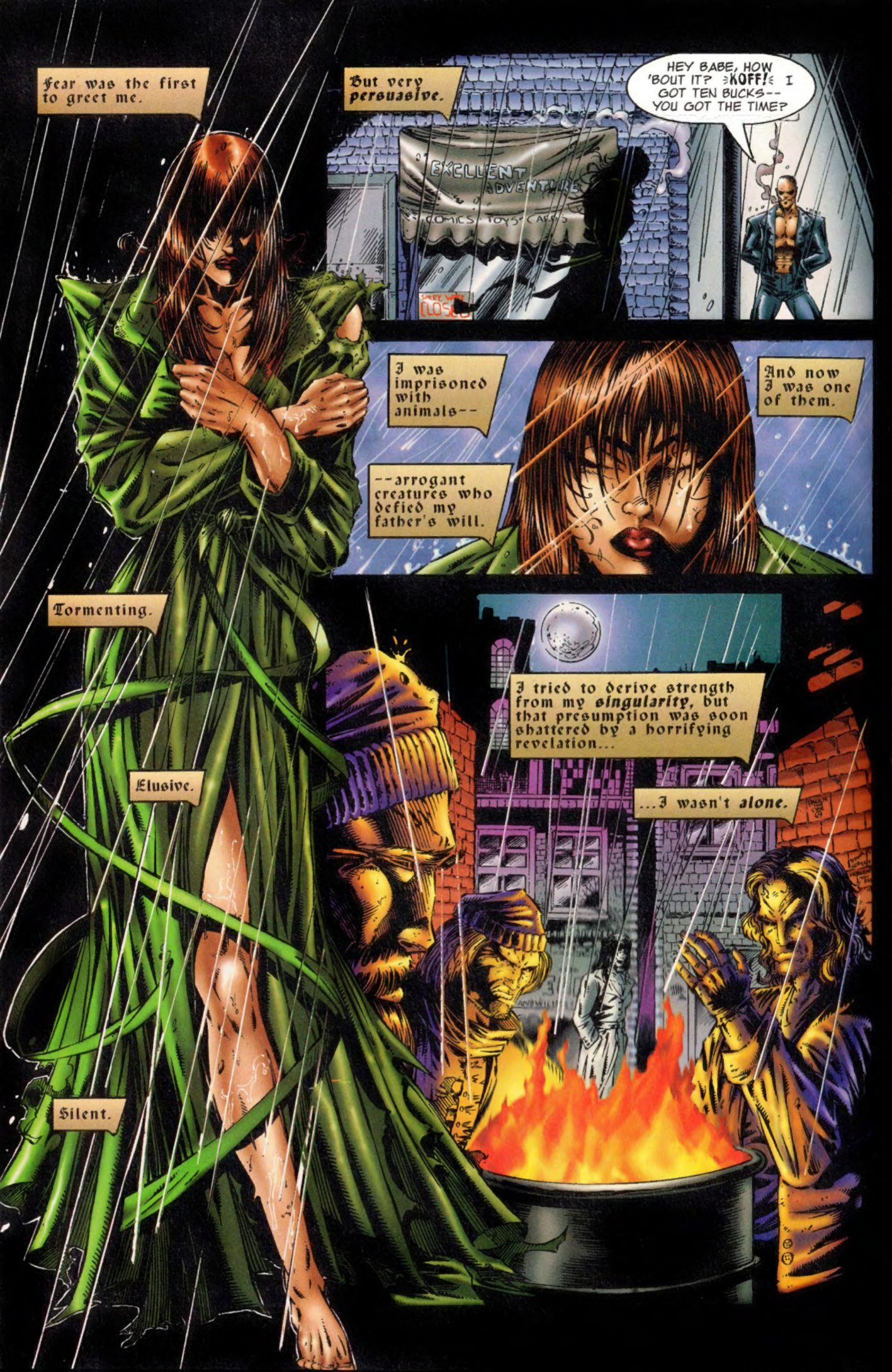
AVENGELYNE

CHAPTER 1


I remember the first night.
I remember how pitiful it all seemed...
...office lights littering the sky--masquerading as stars...
...people fighting against a city--a world that was forged by their own hand.
A world quite unlike my own.
For I was born of light.
To serve my Father in his heavenly host.
To be his messenger.
His angel.
As with all of my Father's work, I was sculpted to perfection.
But as the Father of all things, he demanded obedience from his children. And failure to heed meant punishment.
That's how I came to this place--to serve penance for my failure...to earn my Father's forgiveness.
With a body that had never known age...
Or hunger.
Or sleep.
Or pain.
And he asked only for my love in return.
And how could I not love him? For he had given me everything.
Fallen from his grace, I winced as the cold baptized my flesh.
The emptiness of those first moments on earth was beyond conception.
I clothed myself in what rags I could find...and reluctantly ventured into my new realm.


Fear was the first to greet me.
But very persuasive.
HEY BABE, HOW 'BOUT IT? ≥KOFF!≤ I GOT TEN BUCKS-- YOU GOT THE TIME?
EXCELLENT ADVENTURE
COMICS TOYS CARDS
I was imprisoned with animals--
--arrogant creatures who defied my father's will.
And now I was one of them.
Tormenting.
Elusive.
Silent.
I tried to derive strength from my singularity, but that presumption was soon shattered by a horrifying revelation...
...I wasn't alone.

LOOK HERE, BOYS--WE GOT OURSELVES A LAMB WHO'S RUN AWAY FROM HER FLOCK...
SNIFF SNIFF
WAIT A SECOND--SMELL THAT? NOT A LAMB AFTER ALL--
--BUT A LITTLE SLICE O' HEAVEN!
OH YEAH, BABY--DON'T LOOK SO SURPRISED! WE'RE HERE--WE'RE EVERYWHERE!
The fallen ones were here.
The devil's brood--
--the Demons.
YOU SMELL SWEET! WHY DON'T YOU COME OVER HERE SO ME AN' THE BOYS CAN GET A BETTER PEEK! YOU WON'T GET BURNED--NOT UNLESS YOU WANNA!
NO! JUST STAY AWAY FROM ME-- STAY AWAY!
THAT'S RIGHT, SWEET ANGEL-- RUN!
RUN FOR YOUR LIFE!

So I ran.
Until my human shell forced me to relent.
Depleted of strength--I began to feel a strange euphoria...
Was it the exhaustion that made me stop there...
...or was father still watching over me?
At that moment, as I gazed upward, the wind surged and a thunderous bell resonated throughout the edifice.
Like the trumpets of heaven, the sound stirred my being.

I had found my sanctuary--
--a beautiful mansion within my father's house.
Tiny flames danced in the distance.
Pure.
Forgiving.
As I neared the candles--I felt warmth...for the very first time.
I had found peace...
...Or had I?
NOOOOOO!

MISS? MISS--WAKE UP.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? MISS?!
THAT'S BETTER.
WHA--WHAT HAPPENED?
WELL, AS FAR AS I CAN TELL, YOU UNLEASHED ONE OF THE MOST BLOOD CURDLING SCREAMS I'VE EVER HEARD AND THEN YOU FAINTED
KIDS, DON'T TRY THIS AT HOME.
SEE, THAT WAS A LITTLE JOKE--IT WAS SUPPOSED TO MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER.
WELL, HOW ABOUT I JUST HELP YOU UP AND WE'LL FORGET MY ATTEMPT AT HUMOR.
I'M PETER CLIFTON-- WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
MISS?

I--I'D RATHER NOT TELL MY NAME... IS THAT ALL RIGHT?
SURE. THERE HAVE BEEN LOTS OF TIMES WHEN I WANTED TO HIDE FROM THE WORLD. I UNDERSTAND.
BUT YOU MUST HAVE BEEN IN SOME SERIOUS TROUBLE TO BE OUT ON A NIGHT LIKE THIS.
I SAW... SOME PEOPLE TONIGHT...DANGER-OUS PEOPLE. I HOPED I'D NEVER SEE THEM AGAIN, BUT...
WELL, IS IT SAFE FOR YOU TO GO HOME? WHAT ABOUT YOUR FAMILY--DO THEY KNOW ABOUT THIS?
THEY KNOW.
MY FATHER SENT ME AWAY. I CAN'T GO HOME--NOT NOW... MAYBE NEVER.
I UNDERSTAND YOUR PAIN. EVERY DAY I SEE THE SUFFERING CAUSED BY BROKEN HOMES.
FIND SOLACE IN THE LORD--HE'LL NEVER ABANDON YOU.
DON'T CRY--HERE, TAKE THIS.
WHAT'S IT FOR?

DON'T TELL ME YOU'VE NEVER SEEN A HANDKERCHIEF BEFORE? NO WONDER YOU DIDN'T LAUGH AT MY JOKE. ALLOW ME.
I...I, UH...
...YOUR BURDEN...IS PROFOUND. I KNOW THIS SOUNDS CRAZY, BUT...I CAN FEEL IT.
ALL YOUR LIFE YOU'VE BROUGHT COMFORT TO OTHERS... BUT NO ONE HAS EVER COMFORTED YOU. THAT'S RIGHT, ISN'T IT?
I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN LOVED--
--BUT NO ONE HAS EVER COMFORTED ME IN THIS WAY...
...NO ONE BUT YOU, PETER.
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
HUH?!
FATHER MALORY!
I WAS JUST COMING TO GET YOU. THIS IS-- WELL, SH-SHE...IT'S A LITTLE DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN...
WHY DON'T YOU START AT THE BEGINNING, PETER. THAT WOULD SUFFICE.
OF COURSE, FATHER. WELL, I FOUND HER UNCONSCIOUS NEAR THE ALTAR. LOOKS LIKE SHE FAINTED.

ANYWAY--SHE'S APPARENTLY IN TROUBLE WITH SOME VERY DANGEROUS PEOPLE--SHE CAN'T GO HOME.
I SEE. WELL, I DOUBT THEY CAN FIND ROOM FOR HER AT THE MISSION. NOT ON A NIGHT LIKE THIS.
PERHAPS SHE COULD STAY UP-STAIRS--JUST FOR TONIGHT.
IT'S NOT OUR USUAL PRACTICE, BUT THIS IS A NIGHT FOR EXCEPTIONS.
COME, MY CHILD. I'LL TAKE YOU TO A PLACE WHERE YOU'LL BE SAFE.
I CAN NEVER REPAY YOUR KINDNESS.
I'LL HAVE SISTER JANICE FIND YOU SOMETHING TO WEAR. THERE'S PLENTY OF OLD CLOTHES IN THE BASEMENT.
SHORTLY...
THIS IS MY FIRST TIME IN YOUR CITY. IT IS SO... TASKING.
THAT'S NEW YORK CITY FOR YOU. GET SOME SLEEP. WE'LL TALK AGAIN IN THE MORNING.
SURE YOU WON'T TELL ME YOUR NAME?
MAYBE TOMORROW. PLEASE
OKAY--OKAY, TOMORROW. HAVE PLEASANT DREAMS--
"--WHOEVER YOU ARE."
AVENGELYNE
AVENGELYNE

It's a dream.
Just a dream.
I see myself as I was--at the gates of pandemonium--the fortress of hell.
My countenance has changed, but not my purpose.
I'm still slaying demons in my father's name.
And they keep coming and coming--
--It will never end.
KRAKA-BOOOM!
Never.

THE NEXT MORNING...
DO YOU LIKE OUR GARDEN?
YES, IT'S BEAUTIFUL.
THIS ESPECIALLY-- IT'S SO DELICATE.
LIKE ALL OF GOD'S CREATIONS.
PETER-- COME OVER HERE, PLEASE.
PETER--THIS IS MR. BELISLE. HE IS THE GENTLEMEN I TOLD YOU ABOUT-- THE ONE INTERESTED IN PURCHASING THE CHURCH.
IT IS A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU, PETER. THIS IS MY ASSISTANT HELANA.
IT'S AN HONOR, SIR--I'M WELL ACQUAINTED WITH YOUR PHILANTHROPIC WORK.
I FEAR MY REPUTATION HAS BEEN SOMEWHAT EXAGGERATED, PETER, BUT THANK YOU.
AND WHO DO WE HAVE HERE?
SHE IS A NEW FRIEND-- SOMEONE WE'RE HELPING ALONG.

I SEE--AND WHAT IS YOUR NAME, YOUNG LADY?
WELL, WE'D, UH...BETTER GO. AGAIN, IT'S BEEN A PLEASURE, SIR.
THE PLEASURE HAS BEEN ALL MINE.
WHAT A CURIOUS YOUNG LADY.
I APOLOGIZE, MR. BELISLE. THE GIRL IS SOMEWHAT... RESERVED.
SHE CAME TO US LAST NIGHT SEEKING SHELTER. WE HOUSED HER, BUT SO FAR SHE HASN'T EVEN TOLD US HER NAME. I FEAR SHE'S SOMETHING OF A MYSTERY.
INDEED SHE IS, FATHER MALORY. INDEED SHE IS.

AVENGELYNE?
NO, YOU MISUNDERSTAND, NOT WHAT YOUR STREET FRIENDS CALL YOU--YOUR REAL NAME.
IT IS THE NAME MY FATHER GAVE ME.
WELL... THEN...AVENGELYNE IT IS. WHO AM I TO DISPUTE YOUR FATHER--RIGHT?
AFTER BREAKFAST, WE'LL CHECK SOME OF THE LOCAL MISSIONS AND TRY TO FIND YOU A BED FOR THE NIGHT.
BUT, I THOUGHT I COULD STAY WITH YOU AND FATHER MALORY?!
WELL, THAT'S DIFFICULT...
...WE REALLY DON'T HAVE THE FACILITIES...
LOOK, DON'T GET UPSET. I HAVE AN IDEA. IF YOU'RE WILLING TO WORK--
--SISTER JANICE MIGHT HOUSE YOU AT THE CONVENT.
JUST UNTIL WE CAN FIND SOMETHING PERMANENT.
I CAN WORK--I KNOW I CAN WORK. THAT'S A WONDERFUL IDEA, PETER!

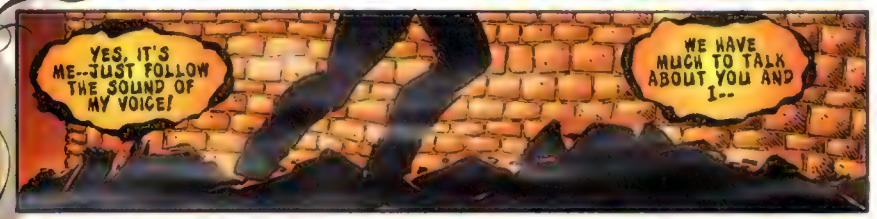
MEANWHILE, WITHIN THE BELISLE TOWERS.
LORD B'LIALE--THAT WOMAN AT ST. AUGUSTINE WAS OF THE WARHOST!
SHE'S A MENACE--WE SHOULD DESTROY HER NOW!
STAY YOUR HAND, H'LANA!
THE FOOLS WHO INHABIT THIS WORLD ARE BLIND TO OUR TRUE NATURE... THIS GIRL POSES NO GREAT THREAT...
IF SHE IS TRULY OF THE WARHOST THEN HER PRESENCE MAY SERVE US WELL.
WE MUST TEST THIS GIRL AND SEE IF SHE IS TRULY A FALLEN ANGEL...
LET ME HAVE THE BITCH!
NO, BELOVED--YOU WOULD SIMPLY DESTROY HER AND WE WOULD LEARN NOTHING. NO, THIS IS A TASK FOR MY PROGENY. BUT YOUR CHANCE WILL COME, H'LANA...THIS I VOW.

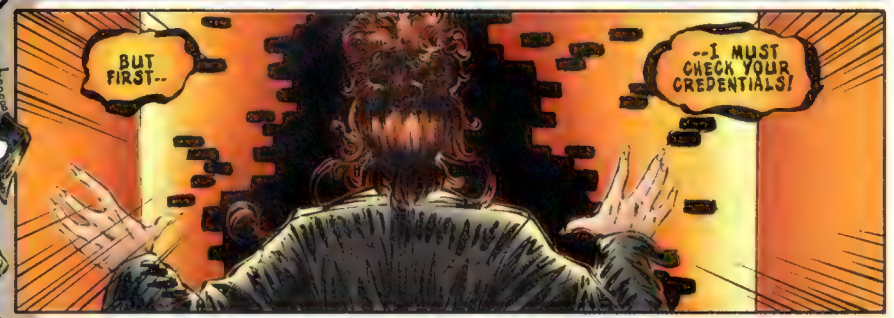
WHEN WILL THE ARRANGEMENTS BE FINALIZED?
IN TWO DAYS MR. BELISLE WILL PURCHASE ST. AUGUSTINE. IT'S EITHER THAT OR THE DOORS GET BOARDED SHUT...
...I REALLY DON'T SEE ANOTHER WAY.
WELL, IF SOMEONE IS MEANT TO BUY OUR CHURCH--I'M GLAD IT'S A MAN OF GOD LIKE MR. BELISLE.

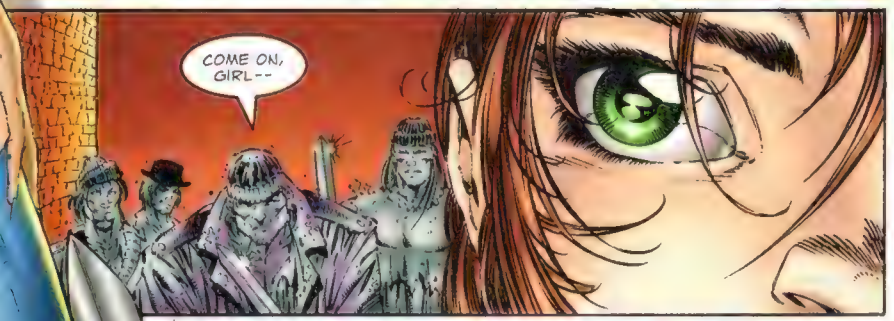
WHAT ABOUT AVENGELYNE?
WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, PETER, DON'T YOU THINK THIS IS ALL RATHER SUDDEN. I ADMIT THE CHILD NEEDS HELP, BUT TO HAVE HER MOVE INTO THE CONVENT AFTER ONLY KNOWING HER FOR A SINGLE DAY?

I SPOKE TO SISTER JANICE AND SHE'S LOOKING FORWARD TO HAVING THE EXTRA HELP.
I REALLY DON'T SEE THE PROBLEM.
THERE ISN'T ONE--AS YET. YOU'RE A GOOD JUDGE OF CHARACTER, PETER, BUT YOUR DESIRE TO DO GOD'S WORK OCCASIONALLY GETS THE BETTER OF YOU. I SIMPLY WANT YOU TO BE CAREFUL--WE KNOW SO VERY LITTLE ABOUT THIS GIRL.
I UNDERSTAND, SIR. I'LL HAVE ANOTHER TALK WITH HER--WHEN SHE GETS BACK FROM HER WALK...

THAT MAN IN THE GARDEN TODAY--THERE WAS A DARKNESS ABOUT HIM...HUH?
SUCH FLATTERY--


YES, IT'S ME--JUST FOLLOW THE SOUND OF MY VOICE!
WE HAVE MUCH TO TALK ABOUT YOU AND I--


BUT FIRST--
--I MUST CHECK YOUR CREDENTIALS!


COME ON, GIRL--

--TIME TO PLAY!

THAT HEAD IS GONNA MAKE A NICE TROPHY, WARHOST--
YOU COULDN'T BEAT ME IN YOUR HELL, DEMON--
--WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOU'LL BEAT ME IN THIS ONE?!
KLANG!
BUT I WILL NEED--
--A SWORD!
NO!
FHHT

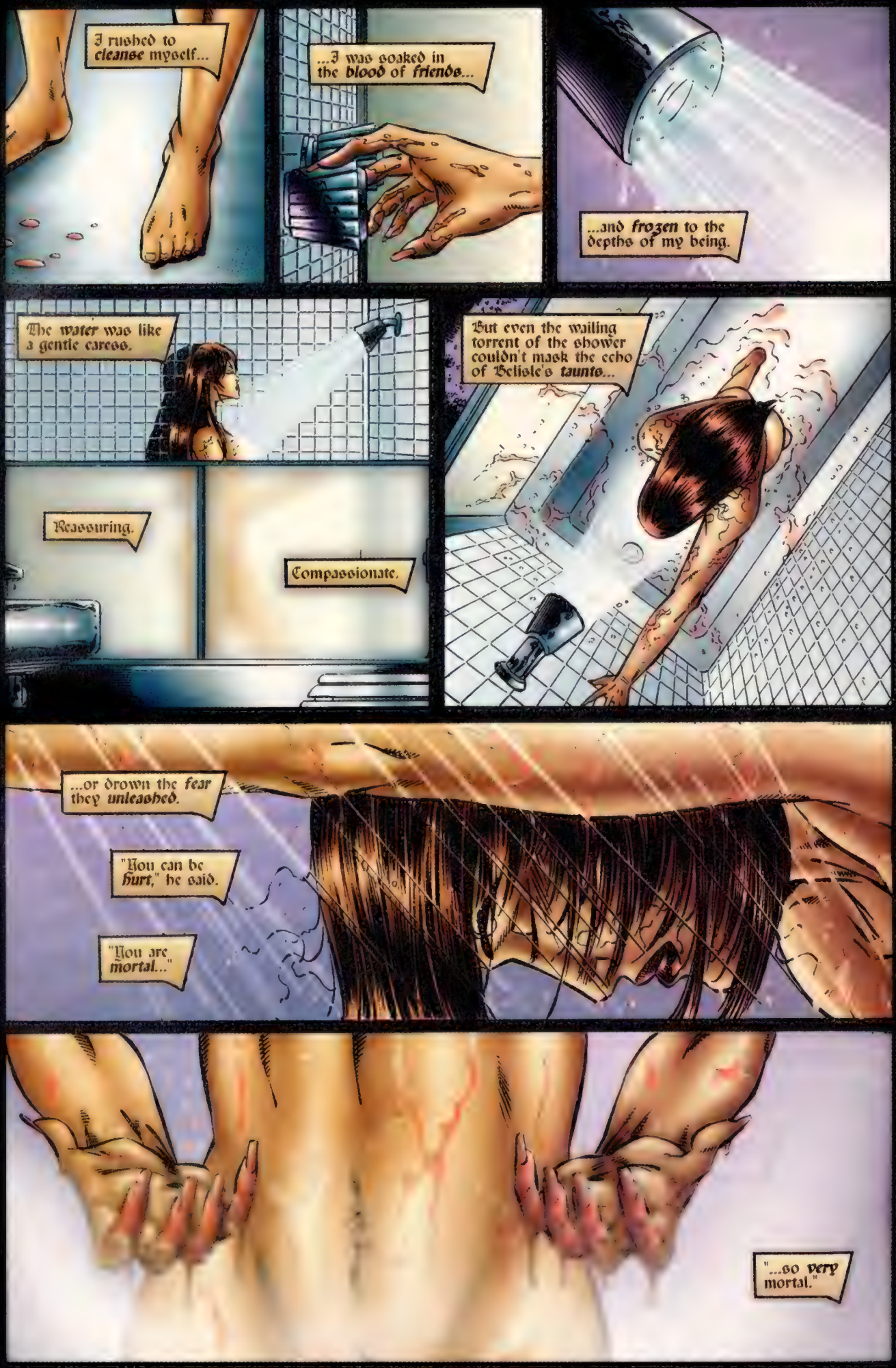
EVEN WITHOUT MY GIFTS--
--YOU'RE NO MATCH FOR AN ANGEL!
VERY WELL DONE, INDEED. NOW-- WE HAVE BUSINESS TO DISCUSS. MEET ME ON THE STREET. I'M IN THE LIMOUSINE.
YOU WON'T NEED THAT--
--I ASSURE YOU, I'M HARMLESS.

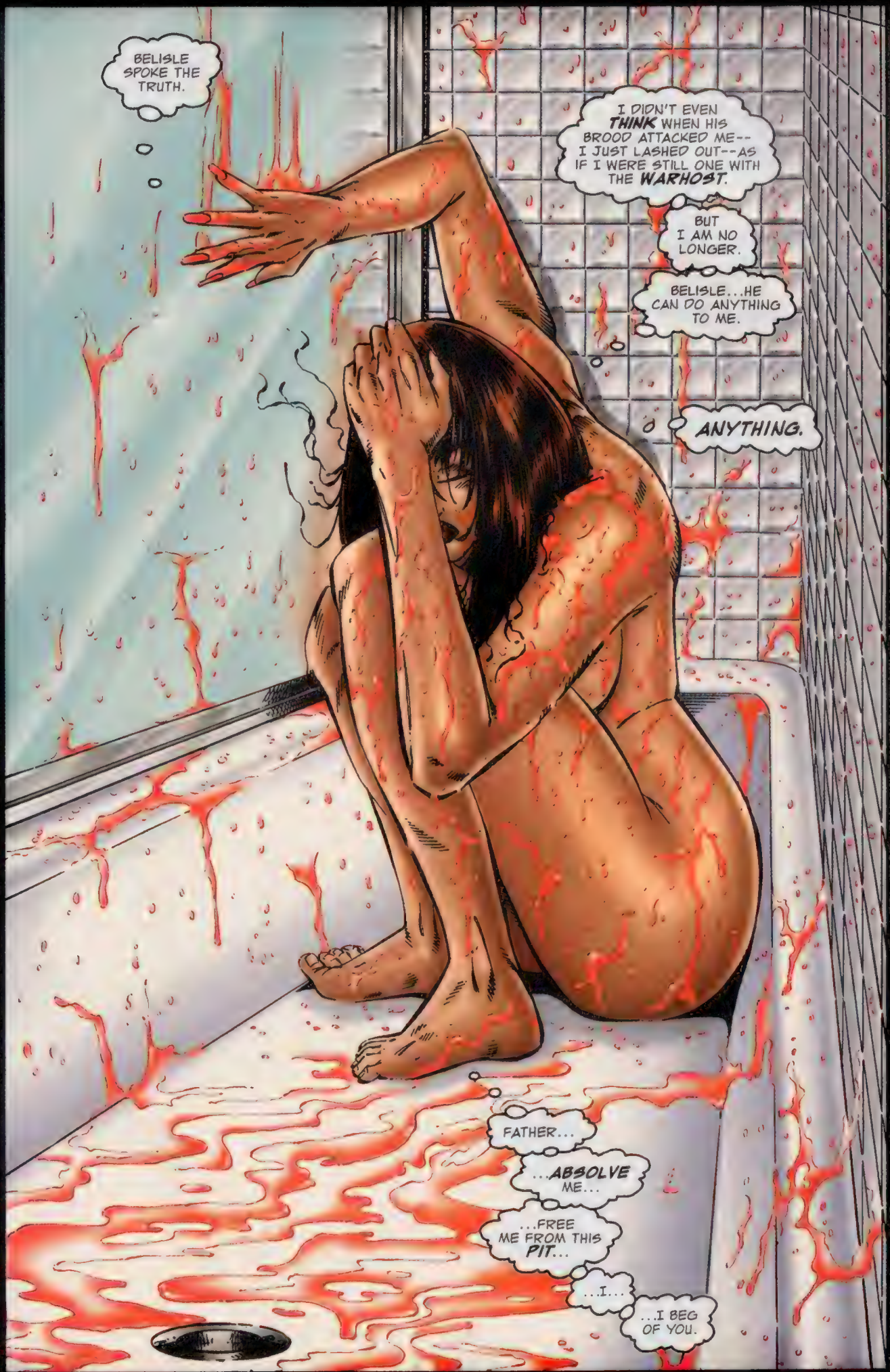
IN HERE... QUICKLY--I HAVE MANY APPOINT-MENTS TODAY.
WELCOME... MISS?
AVENGELYNE.
PLEASE MAKE YOURSELF COMFORTABLE. THIS WON'T TAKE LONG.
THE LEGENDARY, AVENGELYNE. SO WHAT HEINOUS CRIME DID YOU COMMIT TO WARRANT EXILE ON EARTH?
NONE OF YOUR BUSI-NESS.
AS YOU WISH. YOU'RE HERE--AND I KNOW A GOOD DEAL ABOUT YOU ALREADY--AT LEAST BY REPUTATION. YOU WERE THE MOST FEARED OF THE WARHOST. AND NOW--YOU'RE TIRED...UNCERTAIN...AND VERY MORTAL. YOU CAN BE HURT--IN WAYS YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY IMAGINE. FRIGHTENING, ISN'T IT?
I KNOW BECAUSE I WAS ONCE LIKE YOU--A FALLEN ANGEL. BUT I HAD NO INTENTION OF BEING PUN-ISHED WHILE OUR FATHER COWERED IN HEAVEN. SO ONE DAY I TOOK AN OFFER I COULDN'T REFUSE--TO HAVE PERFECTION ONCE MORE.
NOW I MAKE THAT SAME OFFER TO YOU, AVENGELYNE.

I'M NOT INTER-ESTED.
I EXPECTED AS MUCH, BUT IT WAS A NECESSARY FIRST STEP TO ASK.
STOP HERE.
I HAD HIM BRING YOU BACK TO ST. AUGUSTINE-- I'LL OWN IT SOON, YOU KNOW--
"--JUST LIKE I'LL OWN YOU."
NEXT ISSUE: AVENGELYNE VS. H'LANA!

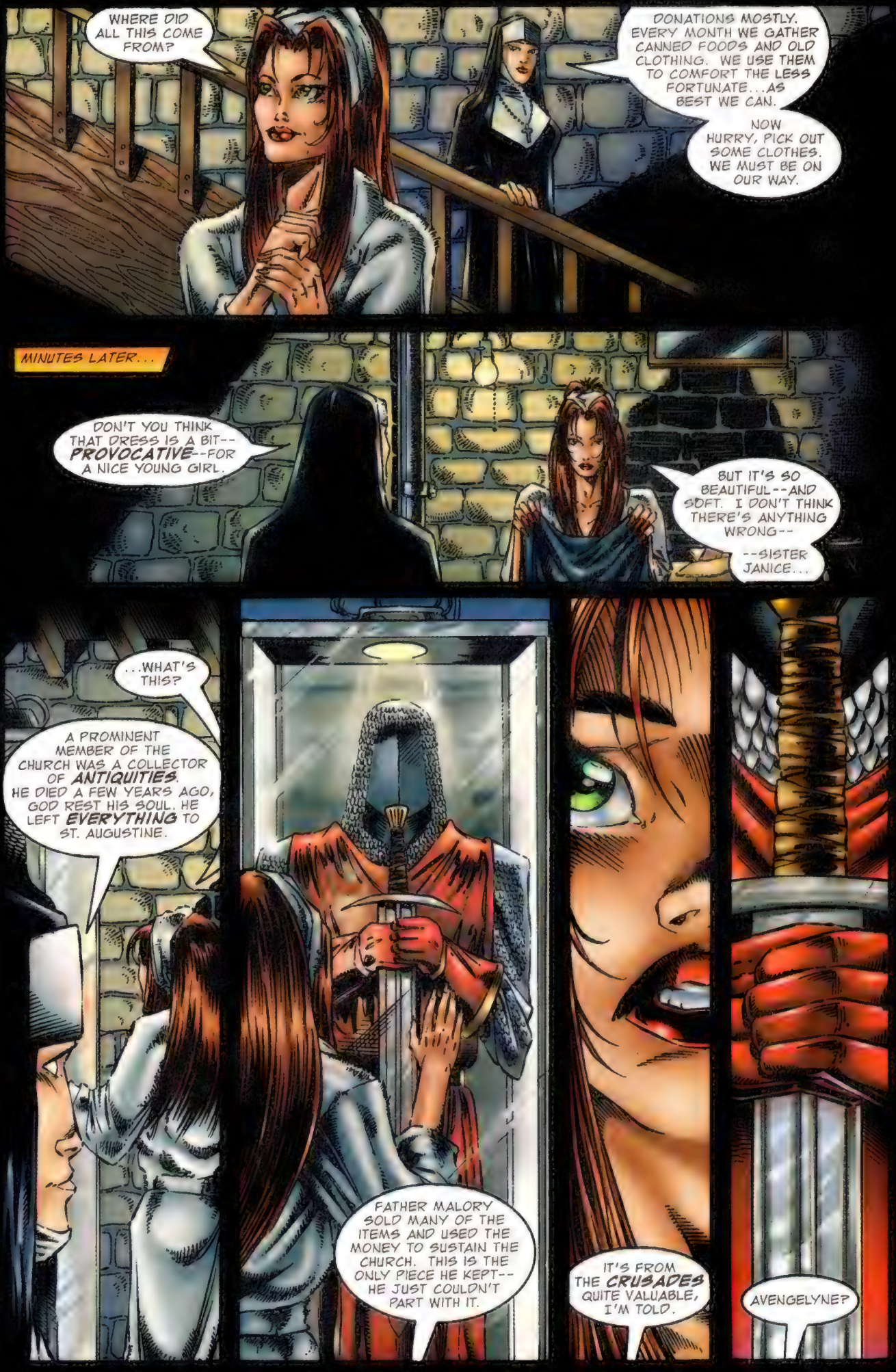
AVENGELYNE

CHAPTER 2


I rushed to cleanse myself...
...I was soaked in the blood of friends...
...and frozen to the depths of my being.
The water was like a gentle caress.
Reassuring.
Compassionate.
But even the wailing torrent of the shower couldn't mask the echo of Belisle's taunts...
...or drown the fear they unleashed.
"You can be hurt," he said.
"You are mortal..."
"...so very mortal."


BELISLE SPOKE THE TRUTH.
I DIDN'T EVEN THINK WHEN HIS BROOD ATTACKED ME--I JUST LASHED OUT--AS IF I WERE STILL ONE WITH THE WARHOST.
BUT I AM NO LONGER.
BELISLE...HE CAN DO ANYTHING TO ME.
ANYTHING.
FATHER...
...ABSOLVE ME...
...FREE ME FROM THIS PIT...
...I...
...I BEG OF YOU.

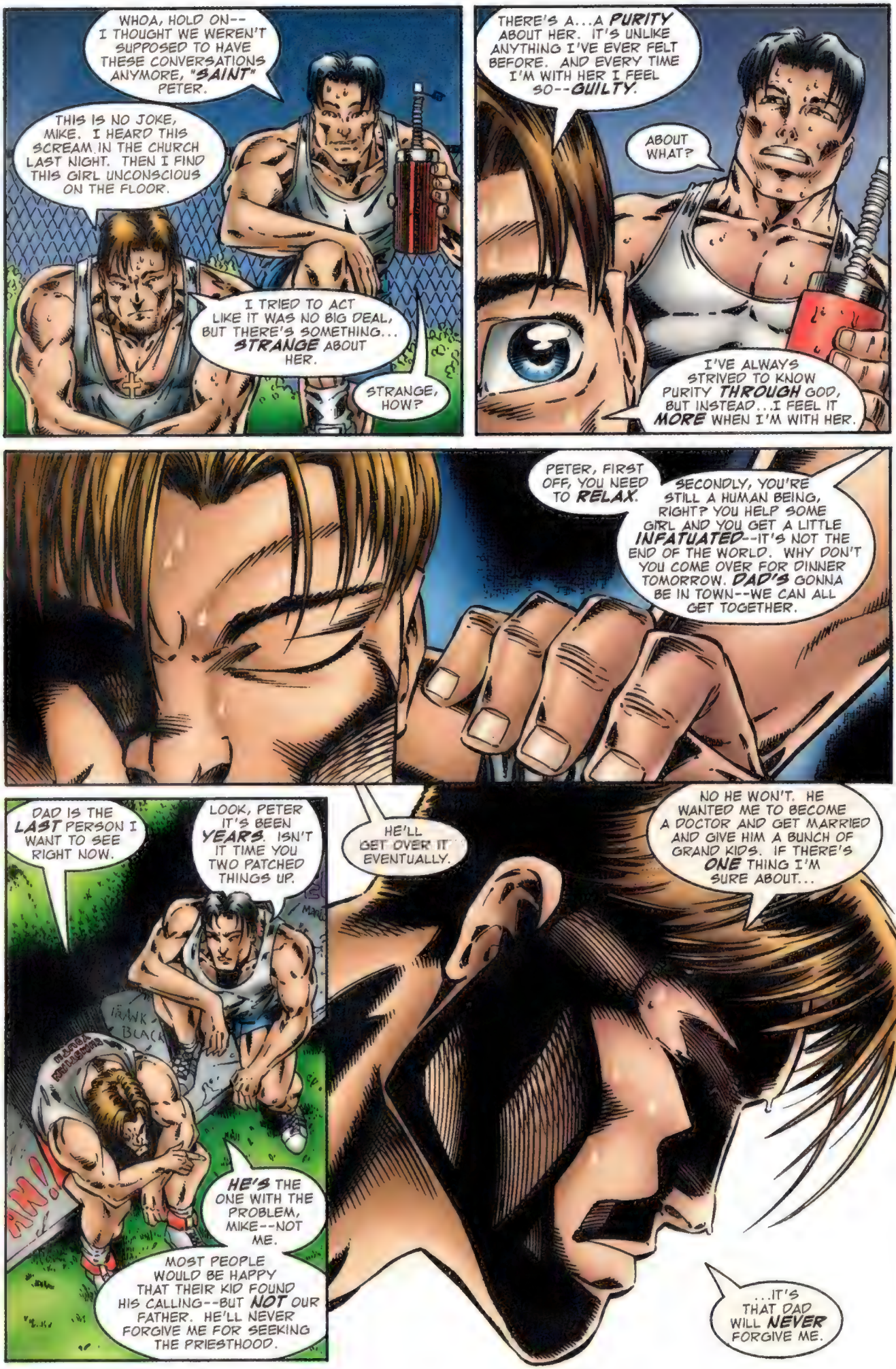
SHORTLY...
I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU, CHILD. IT'S GETTING LATE--THEY WERE EXPECTING US AT THE CONVENT AN HOUR AGO.
I'M SORRY, SISTER JANICE. I JUST...NEEDED TO THINK. I SUPPOSE I HAVE NO CONCEPTION OF TIME.
I SEE. WELL, THERE ARE MANY CHORES TO PERFORM AT THE CONVENT. IF YOU ARE GOING TO STAY WITH US I EXPECT YOU TO BE PUNCTUAL.
I'LL LEARN, SISTER. I PROMISE.
VERY WELL. BEFORE WE GO, LET'S TRY TO FIND YOU SOME MORE CLOTHES.
W-WHAT'S DOWN HERE?
JUST THE BASEMENT, MY CHILD.
CLICK!


WHERE DID ALL THIS COME FROM?
DONATIONS MOSTLY. EVERY MONTH WE GATHER CANNED FOODS AND OLD CLOTHING. WE USE THEM TO COMFORT THE LESS FORTUNATE...AS BEST WE CAN.
NOW HURRY, PICK OUT SOME CLOTHES. WE MUST BE ON OUR WAY.
MINUTES LATER...
DON'T YOU THINK THAT DRESS IS A BIT-- PROVOCATIVE--FOR A NICE YOUNG GIRL.
BUT IT'S SO BEAUTIFUL--AND SOFT. I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANYTHING WRONG--
--SISTER JANICE...
...WHAT'S THIS?
A PROMINENT MEMBER OF THE CHURCH WAS A COLLECTOR OF ANTIQUITIES. HE DIED A FEW YEARS AGO, GOD REST HIS SOUL. HE LEFT EVERYTHING TO ST. AUGUSTINE.
FATHER MALORY SOLD MANY OF THE ITEMS AND USED THE MONEY TO SUSTAIN THE CHURCH. THIS IS THE ONLY PIECE HE KEPT-- HE JUST COULDN'T PART WITH IT.
IT'S FROM THE CRUSADES QUITE VALUABLE, I'M TOLD.
AVENGELYNE?

AVENGELYNE...
YES, FATHER?
YOU SHARE IN MY LIGHT, MY DAUGHTER. TAKE THIS SWORD OF FIRE--
--AND STRIKE WITH RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT!
REJOICE IN THE GLORY-- YOU ARE OF MY HOST NOW...
...MY LIGHTNING DRESSED AS SNOW...

AVENGELYNE?! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?! AVENGELYNE?!
HUH?!
OH, PETER-- I-I'M SORRY-- I WAS...
...I WAS JUST... REMEMBERING.
SISTER JANICE RAN AND GOT ME--SHE SAID YOU WOULDN'T RESPOND-- LIKE YOU WENT INTO SOME KIND OF TRANCE.
I KNOW-- IT'S DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN. PETER, WE MUST TALK--THERE ARE SOME THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ME--
--IMPORTANT THINGS.
LOOK, YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH A LOT IN THE LAST 24 HOURS. GO WITH SISTER JANICE. SHE'LL BRING YOU BACK TOMORROW AND WE'LL GRAB A BITE AND TALK THEN, OKAY?
DEEP WITHIN B'LIALE'S SANCTUM...
YOU READ HER SCENT WELL, BELOVED. SHE IS AVENGELYNE--A WARHOST--OR AT LEAST SHE WAS.
SHE EARNED SOMETHING OF A REPUTATION LONG AGO BY STORMING THE GATES OF PANDEMONIUM--ALONE. ONCE INSIDE THE CITADEL SHE SLEW A THOUSAND OF OUR KIND, AND ALL BUT REACHED THE DRAGON'S HEART.
WHY DID SHE PENETRATE HELL WITHOUT HER HOST?!
PERHAPS TO WIN DADDY'S FAVOR. SHE WOULDN'T BE THE FIRST.
AND NOW THE BITCH CAN BLEED LIKE ANY OTHER HUMAN.
I'M BEGGING YOU, MY LORD, AS YOUR CONSORT--ALLOW ME THIS HONOR. LET ME BRING YOU HER CORPSE--
--SO HER HEAD CAN ADORN OUR BED CHAMBER--TO AMUSE US AS WE COUPLE!
YOU TEMPT ME BELOVED, BUT I THINK NOT. HER SOUL IS THE TRUE PRIZE. GO TO HER. CONVINCE HER TO JOIN US. BE FIRM.
LET HER FEEL THE WARMTH OF HER OWN BLOOD AS IT ABANDONS HER--JUST LIKE HER FATHER HAS ABANDONED HER! THEN SHE'LL ACCEPT OUR OFFER.

WHAT'S THE MATTER, LITTLE BROTHER--TAKE THE SHOT!
HA, HA--NOW THAT WAS A BRICK IF I EVER SAW ONE! FEELING THE PRESSURE, PETIE?! ONE MORE BUCKET AND I WIN!
IN YOUR DREAMS, MIKE.
, WHERE'S THE DEFENSE, BRO?! HE SHOOTS--
HEY!
--OH, NOTHING BUT NET!
AND THE CROWD GOES WILD AS MICHAEL CLIFTON GIVES ANOTHER CLINIC IN THE ART OF ONE-ON-ONE HOOP DREAMS!
THE CROWD YOU'RE HEARING IS ALL THOSE VOICES IN YOUR HEAD, PSYCHO.
BUT I GUESS YOU SHOULD SAVOR THE VICTORY. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE WON IN HOW LONG-- TWO MONTHS?
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT. I ADMIT IT--YOUR GAME'S OFF TONIGHT. SO WHAT'S THE PROBLEM, LITTLE BROTHER?
SERIOUSLY, MIKE? I MET THIS GIRL--


WHOA, HOLD ON-- I THOUGHT WE WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO HAVE THESE CONVERSATIONS ANYMORE, "SAINT" PETER.
THIS IS NO JOKE, MIKE. I HEARD THIS SCREAM IN THE CHURCH LAST NIGHT. THEN I FIND THIS GIRL UNCONSCIOUS ON THE FLOOR.
I TRIED TO ACT LIKE IT WAS NO BIG DEAL, BUT THERE'S SOMETHING... STRANGE ABOUT HER.
STRANGE, HOW?
THERE'S A...A PURITY ABOUT HER. IT'S UNLIKE ANYTHING I'VE EVER FELT BEFORE. AND EVERY TIME I'M WITH HER I FEEL SO--GUILTY.
ABOUT WHAT?
I'VE ALWAYS STRIVED TO KNOW PURITY THROUGH GOD, BUT INSTEAD...I FEEL IT MORE WHEN I'M WITH HER.
PETER, FIRST OFF, YOU NEED TO RELAX.
SECONDLY, YOU'RE STILL A HUMAN BEING, RIGHT? YOU HELP SOME GIRL AND YOU GET A LITTLE INFATUATED--IT'S NOT THE END OF THE WORLD. WHY DON'T YOU COME OVER FOR DINNER TOMORROW. DAD'S GONNA BE IN TOWN--WE CAN ALL GET TOGETHER.
DAD IS THE LAST PERSON I WANT TO SEE RIGHT NOW.
LOOK, PETER IT'S BEEN YEARS. ISN'T IT TIME YOU TWO PATCHED THINGS UP.
HE'LL GET OVER IT EVENTUALLY.
NO HE WON'T. HE WANTED ME TO BECOME A DOCTOR AND GET MARRIED AND GIVE HIM A BUNCH OF GRAND KIDS. IF THERE'S ONE THING I'M SURE ABOUT...
HE'S THE ONE WITH THE PROBLEM, MIKE--NOT ME.
MOST PEOPLE WOULD BE HAPPY THAT THEIR KID FOUND HIS CALLING--BUT NOT OUR FATHER. HE'LL NEVER FORGIVE ME FOR SEEKING THE PRIESTHOOD.
...IT'S THAT DAD WILL NEVER FORGIVE ME.

ST. AUGUSTINE. THE NEXT DAY.
WELL, PETER--TOMORROW THE CHURCH WILL BELONG TO MR. BELISLE.
ARE YOU EXPECTING MEDIA COVERAGE--LIKE WHEN HE BOUGHT THE OTHER CHURCHES?
MR. BELISLE TENDS TO TRAVEL WITH A RATHER HIGH PROFILE. BUT FRANKLY, HE'S EARNED THE PRAISE--HE'S SAVED A HALF A DOZEN CHURCHES FROM CLOSING DOWN. IF THERE WERE MORE MEN LIKE BELISLE--THE WORLD WOULD BE A BETTER PLACE.
WHAT'S ON YOUR AGENDA THIS EVENING?
I'M JOINING AVENGELYNE FOR AN EARLY DINNER.
I SEE...
PETER, STOP FOR A MOMENT.
PETER, I WAS A YOUNG MAN ONCE, LIKE YOURSELF. THOSE OF US WHO STRUGGLE TO ATTAIN UNITY WITH THE LORD AND LIVE BY HIS TEACHINGS MUST BEAR THE WEIGHT OF HIS DEMANDS. I KNOW IT'S NOT ALWAYS EASY.
IF YOU EVER FEEL ANY DOUBT ABOUT THE PATH YOU'VE TAKEN--DON'T BE AFRAID TO TALK TO ME. I'M HERE FOR YOU AS WELL.
THAT MEANS A GREAT DEAL TO ME, FATHER--THANK YOU.
BUT I'M FINE, SIR. REALLY I AM.
VERY WELL. THEN I'LL SEE YOU AT THE SIGNING CEREMONY TOMORROW.

A SHORT TIME LATER...
HUNGRY?
YES, I HAVEN'T EATEN YET.
GOOD, THERE'S A PLACE I LIKE NOT FAR FROM HERE. BY THE WAY--WHERE DID YOU GET THAT DRESS?
IN THE BASEMENT. SISTER JANICE WANTED ME TO PICK SOMETHING ELSE, BUT I JUST COULDN'T.
SHE TELLS ME IT'S MADE OF VELVET--I'VE NEVER FELT ANYTHING SO SOFT.
YEAH, WELL--IT'S, UH...
...VERY NICE.
PERFECT. SO THE BITCH HAS FOUND HERSELF A MAN--AND A PRIEST NO LESS. POOR DEAR--FOREVER "DADDY'S LITTLE GIRL."
WELL, WARHOST, IM GOING TO MAKE SURE THAT THIS IS A VERY SPECIAL NIGHT--
--FOR YOU AND YOUR DARLING PRIEST.
HA, HA, HA

LATER...
I HAVE A CONFESSION TO MAKE...
--IF I SEEM A BIT PREOCCUPIED IT'S BECAUSE MY DAD'S IN TOWN TONIGHT, AND WELL--WE HAD A BIT OF A DISAGREEMENT SOME TIME AGO--WE'RE SORT OF AVOIDING EACH OTHER.
SO, YOU SEE--WE HAVE A LOT IN COMMON.
MY FATHER IS ONE OF THE THINGS I NEED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT, PETER. BUT FIRST... TELL ME ABOUT MR. BELISLE?
BELISLE?!
WELL, I JUST KNOW WHAT I'VE READ ABOUT HIM...
...HE'S ONE OF THE RICHEST MEN IN THE WORLD. HE'S VERY INFLUENTIAL IN THE MEDIA--HE OWNS BNN, THE WORLD'S LARGEST INDEPENDENT NEWS NETWORK.
AND HE'S BEEN VERY GENEROUS WITH HIS WEALTH--HE'S PROBABLY THE LAST TRUE PHILANTHROPIST.
BUT WHY DOES HE WANT THE CHURCH?
HE KNOWS ST. AUGUSTINE IS IN TROUBLE. HE FINDS CHURCHES THAT ARE EXPERIENCING HARD TIMES AND THEN HE BUYS THEM. HE OWNS ABOUT A HALF DOZEN--ALL OVER NEW YORK.
BUT WHY ALL THE INTEREST IN MR. BELISLE?
PETER...
...I KNOW WE HAVEN'T KNOWN EACH OTHER THAT LONG, BUT...I TRUST YOU. AND I WOULD NEVER DO ANYTHING TO HURT YOU OR FATHER MALORY.
AVENGELYNE, WHAT'S THIS ABOUT?
IT'S BELISLE, PETER. YOU CAN'T ALLOW HIM TO BUY ST. AUGUSTINE. HE'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK HE IS--HE'S A DE--

WAIT, PETER-- THEY'RE HERE.
WHO'S HERE?
OVER THERE, SEE HIM--?!
SEE WHO--?!
I DON'T SEE ANYONE. ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
NO--I'M NOT.
THEY'RE ALL OVER THIS CITY, PETER. THEY'RE LIKE ME.
WE'VE ALL FALLEN FROM GRACE.
BUT SOME HAVE ABANDONED ALL HOPE OF RETURNING TO OUR FATHER--THEY'VE SWORN ALLEGIANCE TO THE DRAGON.
THE DRAGON?! AVENGELYNE, WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
HE WANTS ME.
YOU'LL BE SAFE IN HERE, PETER. WHATEVER HAPPENS, JUST STAY INSIDE.

I KNOW YOU'RE OUT HERE--
--THERE'S NO POINT IN HIDING--
--I--LET'S JUST GET IT OVER WITH.
HUH?
NO-NO, WHAT HAVE I DONE?!
SAMANTHA ROCKS
PETER?
YOUR PRIEST IS MINE
PETER?!
A MESSAGE?
THE PATH TRAIN: MIDNIGHT
OH, PETER... FORGIVE ME...

I walked for hours...
...trying to control the fear which gnawed at my stomach.
Part of me wanted to *run*--to leave this city and *never* return. But Peter's life was in danger because of *me*.
I thought about seeking Father Malory's help--but he could do nothing against them.
Nobody could help me...
...nobody except...
...Father...
I-I KNOW I *FAILED* YOU...AND THAT'S WHY YOU SENT ME HERE...
...BUT PETER IS A *GOOD* MAN, FATHER. I *ALONE* DESERVE THIS PUNISHMENT. HE DOES NOT.
HE'S ONE OF THE FEW PEOPLE IN THIS--THIS *HELL*--THAT'S GIVEN HIS LIFE TO YOU...
...SO IF YOU C-CAN'T DO THIS FOR ME...THEN PERHAPS...YOU CAN DO IT FOR *HIM*.
PLEASE, FATHER...HELP ME...
...I'M SO AFRAID... PLEASE...
...PLEASE ANSWER ME...

FATHER!
FATHER...WHY D-DON'T YOU ANSWER?
I S-SUPPOSE THIS IS MY TRUE PUNISHMENT...
TH-THAT YOUR ANSWER... IS NO.
VERY WELL... TH-THIS TIME, I WILL HEED YOUR WORDS. AND I-I WON'T FAIL YOU--OR PETER. BUT I MUST BE READY... I MUST HAVE A WEAPON--
--OF COURSE--
--THE BASE-MENT.

They picked a worthy place for our showdown.

New York's very own *netherworld*.

The *subway*.

The air was thick and lifeless--every corner reeked of man's waste.

As I waited, I closed my eyes...to think of Peter's face.

Then I heard a faint sound...

...and saw it emerging from the distance.

It moved slowly at first, like a languid *serpent*.

A serpent cast in *iron*...

...screaming as it hastened toward me.

Its purpose was clear--

--to usher me to my final destination--

--hell's gate.

RRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRR

The time has finally come...
...the moment of my resurrection is at hand.
I'LL PROTECT YOU, PETER...
...I PROMISE!

My opponents were patient.
Unusually patient.
Demons aren't renowned for their subtlety--I expected an immediate assault.
But none were there.
JOE, I'VE DIED AND GONE TO HEAVEN, MAN.
NO SHIT!

I suppose they had orders *not* to attack me. Belisle wanted *me* for himself--
--*alive* if possible.
HUH?!
PETER!
PETER-- ARE YOU ALRIGHT?!
PETER!
A-AVENGELYNE? IS IT *REALLY* YOU?
YES, IT'S ME--ARE YOU HURT?
A-AVENGELYNE, TH-THE *THINGS* THEY D-DID TO ME-- *U-UNIMAGINABLE* THINGS...
OH, PETER... I'M SO SORRY.

YOU SHOULD BE, BITCH!
IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT!!
HOW COULD A WARHOST FALL PREY TO SUCH A SIMPLISTIC GAMBIT?
PERHAPS YOUR PASSION FOR THE PRIEST HAS MADE YOU FORGET YOUR TRAINING. TELL ME, HAVE YOU SEDUCED HIM YET?
WHERE IS HE?!
I'VE COME TO TRADE MY LIFE FOR HIS!

NO NEED FOR THAT ANGEL!
I PLAN ON KILLING BOTH OF YOU!
WHERE'S YOUR FIERY SWORD--LEFT IT AT HOME?!
I WON'T NEED IT--
--TO DEFEAT YOU!
KRAK
WRONG, ANGEL--
--YOU THINK A MORTAL BODY CAN RIVAL PERFECTION?!

SLASH!
REMEMBER HOW IT USED TO BE? A DEMON WOULD RIVE YOUR FLESH AND YOU WOULDN'T EVEN FEEL IT.
YOU CAN HAVE THAT AGAIN-- ALL THE POWERS YOU HAD AS AN ANGEL AND MORE...
...JUST RENOUNCE YOUR DADDY AND ALL THE PAIN WILL GO AWAY.
O-ONE SHOT--
--HAVE TO MAKE IT COUNT!

ARRGHH!
AWW-- GOD DAMN YOU!
A HOLY SWORD...V-VERY CLEVER. BUT U-UNFORTUN-ATELY--
--YOU MISSED MY HEART!
RE-MEMBER THIS, WARHOST--
--I GAVE YOU A CHANCE TO JOIN US!
WHY, YOU LOOK LIKE YOU COULD USE SOME FRESH AIR--
--AS MY BRETHREN IN PANDEMONIUM RAPE YOU DAY AND NIGHT--

"--ALLOW ME TO HELP!"
KRASH!
THIS IS WHERE YOU GET OFF, AVENGELYNE.
I'M SORRY YOU WON'T BE HERE WHEN WE REMAKE THIS WORLD--AND USE ST. AUGUSTINE TO DO IT!
BUT I'M AFRAID--
--YOU'LL BE WRITHING IN THE FURNACE--
--BY THEN!
GOODBYE, ANGEL!
NO, H'LANA!
LORD B'LIALE!
YOU HAVE FAILED ME, H'LANA--YOU HAVE EXCEEDED YOUR CHARGE.
NO-- LET ME FINISH HER!

NO, MY LORD-- PLEASE--
--PLEASE!
UH...G-GONE...
...SHE'S GONE...
...B-BUT WHERE'S PE--
AVENGELYNE!
P-PETER?
YES, I WAS HERE--I TRIED TO WARN YOU, BUT I COULDN'T SPEAK.
IT W-WOULDN'T HAVE MATTERED...I C-COULDN'T SEE YOU-- NOT THE R-REAL YOU... JUST HER FACADE.
PETER, HELP M-ME MOVE OVER TH-THERE.

HOW COULD I HAVE NOT S-SEEN IT BEFORE?
SEEN WHAT?
SHOW M-ME WHERE ALL THE CHURCHES ARE-- THAT BELISLE OWNS.
SECONDS LATER...
THAT'S THE LAST ONE.
IT'S WHAT H'LANA SAID ABOUT THE CHURCH--I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE.
I-IT'S A G-GATE. EACH OF THE CHURCHES-- INCLUDING ST. AUGUSTINE-- SITS ON ONE OF ITS POINTS... A-AND ONCE IT'S OPEN--
--IT CAN NEVER BE CLOSED.
OH, MY LORD. BUT WHAT DOES IT MEAN?!
O-ONLY ONE THING...
...HELL UPON EARTH!
WILL B'LIALE'S EVIL PLAN WORK? FIND OUT IN 30 DAYS AS THE FIRST AVENGELYNE STORY ARC COMES TO A CLOSE!

AVENGELYNE

CHAPTER 3

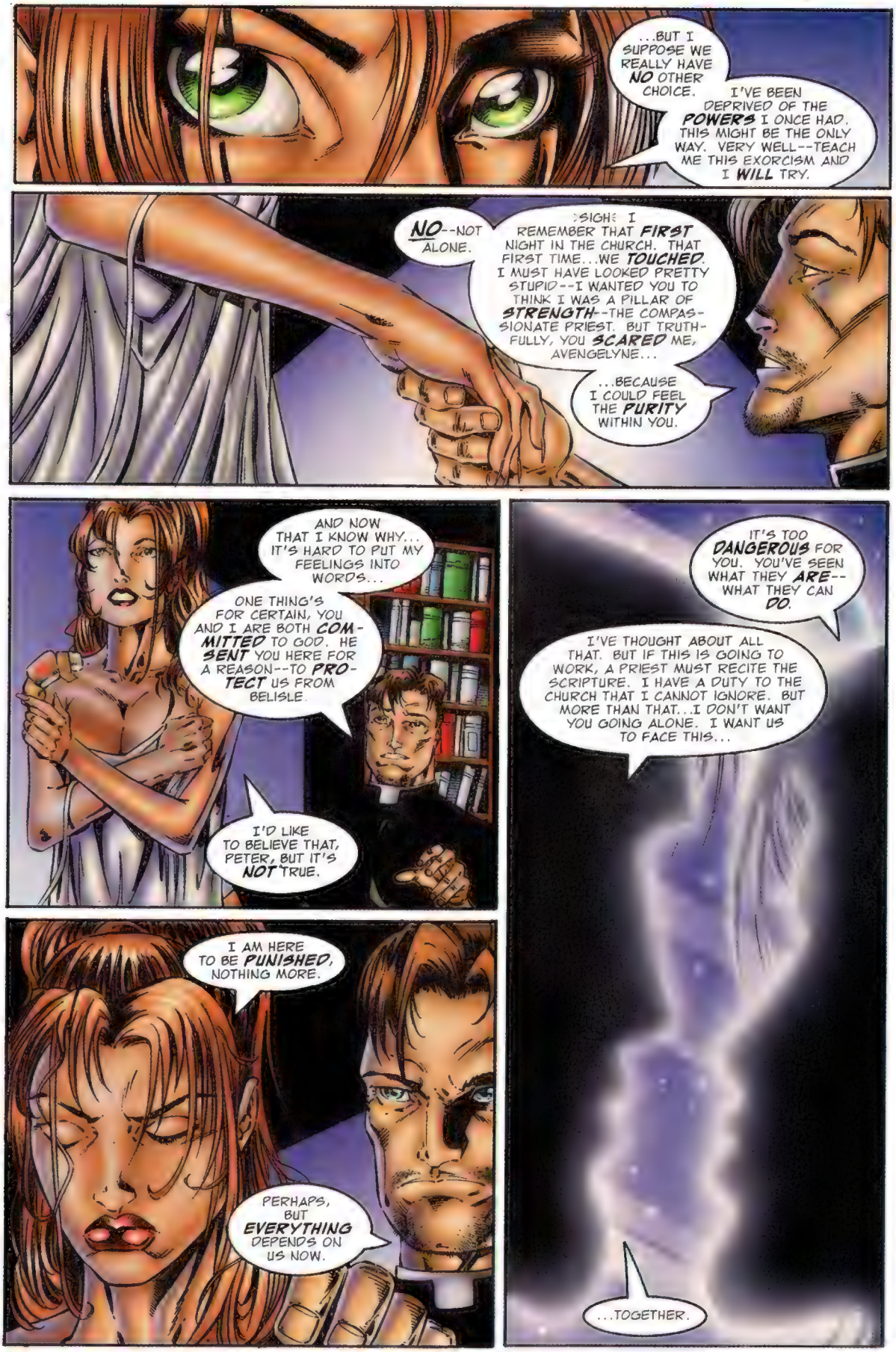
My Dream.
It visits me often...as a terrifying reminder of my previous existence. It always starts the same...
...with the image of myself locked in mortal combat...
...against the very demons I had been created to destroy.

In the dream, I remember hating them for what they had become.
They had been angels of light. But they mortgaged their birthright...and bathed themselves in darkness.
Whether I liked it or not, I was charged with their destruction.
I paused...wondering if I had known any of them in heaven...
...had they been my companions, my friends--had we fought side by side in the bowels of hell?
I didn't wait to find out.
SHKK!

But the night after I first battled H'lana, a strange thing happened. The dream... sent me a warning.
I was alone amid the carnage of the battlefield...
...standing there, a curious dread overwhelmed me.
Though I had won the battle...I had lost the war.
Hell itself had risen to the surface of the earth...
...the planet was doomed to an eternity of damnation...
...and it was all my fault...

NO!
AVENGELYNE!
IT'S OKAY--WE'RE IN MY APARTMENT. I BROUGHT YOU HERE LAST NIGHT, REMEMBER?
I TH-THINK SO.
WHA--WHAT IS THIS?
IT'LL HELP YOU GET BETTER. MY BROTHER MICHAEL IS A DOCTOR--HE'S BEEN HERE TAKING CARE OF YOU FOR THE LAST 24 HOURS.
HE SAYS, Uh...THAT YOU LOST SOME FLUID AND--WELL, YOUR RIBS ARE BRUISED. OTHERWISE...WE THINK YOU'RE OKAY.
P-PETER... WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT?
I'M SORRY...IT'S JUST THAT...WELL, I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE THAT YOU'RE--
--AN ANGEL?
YES. IF I HADN'T SEEN YOU FIGHTING THAT--THAT DEMON WITH MY OWN EYES ...I NEVER WOULD HAVE BELIEVED IT.
BUT NOW THAT I KNOW... THERE ARE SO MANY QUESTIONS I WANT TO ASK.
I UNDERSTAND, PETER. BUT THERE WILL BE TIME FOR THAT LATER... IF WE'RE LUCKY. DID YOU CALL FATHER MALORY?
THIS MORNING. THE TRANSFER OF THE CHURCH TO BELISLE WAS SCHEDULED FOR TODAY. IT WASN'T EASY, BUT I CONVINCED FATHER MALORY TO POSTPONE THE SIGNING OF THE CONTRACT.
HE TRUSTS ME, BUT HE'S DEMANDING AN EXPLANATION.
IT'S VERY SIMPLE REALLY, BUT HE JUST WON'T BELIEVE IT.
THERE IS AN ORDER TO THINGS, PETER...EVEN WHERE I COME FROM. DEMONS ARE EMPOWERED BY SOULS THAT ARE GIVEN TO THEM. IT'S THE SAME WITH ST. AUGUSTINE--IT MUST BE GIVEN TO BELISLE--HE CAN'T JUST TAKE IT.
AND ONCE HE'S CORRUPTED THE CHURCHES, THERE'S NO TURNING BACK. HE CAN OPEN THE GATEWAY AND RESHAPE THIS WORLD...

...INTO A LIVING HELL. I'VE SEEN IT IN MY DREAMS, PETER. IT'S HORRIBLE.
WE MUST STOP HIM. WE MUST!
I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT THAT--ALL DAY, IN FACT. I HAVE AN IDEA...IT'S GONNA SOUND CRAZY, BUT JUST HEAR ME OUT.
AVENGELYNE, I WANT TO PERFORM AN EXORCISM.
EXORCISM... WHAT'S THAT?
IT'S HOW WE EXPEL DEMONS FROM PEOPLE AND STRUCTURES.
WHEN I WAS STUDYING IN EUROPE, I RESEARCHED ANCIENT EXORCISM RITES. I MET A PRIEST ONCE WHO TOLD ME AN OLD MYTH--ABOUT AN EXORCISM THAT DROVE A POWERFUL DEMON BACK INTO HELL.
WITH YOUR HELP, I THINK WE CAN USE THIS AGAINST BELISLE.
FORGIVE ME, PETER, BUT I DON'T SEE HOW A HUMAN RITUAL CAN STOP A DEMON LORD OF HIS POWER.
IT CAN WORK BECAUSE THIS RITUAL IS POWERED BY THE DIVINE.
WE MUST PAINT A CROSS NEAR THE DEMON. THEN WHEN A SPECIFIC VERSE OF SCRIPTURE IS READ, THE CROSS...IT COMES ALIVE AND SENDS THE DEMON BACK TO HIS WORLD. BUT THERE'S JUST ONE CATCH...
...THE CROSS MUST BE PAINTED...WITH THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST.
WHAT?!
THEN, HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO--
ACCORDING TO THE MYTH, CHRIST'S BLOOD WAS SAVED THROUGHOUT THE CENTURIES AND USED FOR THIS PURPOSE. THE BLOOD IS POWERFUL BECAUSE HE IS THE SON OF GOD--
--AND YOU ARE HIS DAUGHTER. YOUR BLOOD SHOULD ALSO WORK. MICHAEL'S IN THE OTHER ROOM--HE CAN EXTRACT IT FOR US.
PETER...I MAY HAVE BEEN AN ANGEL...BUT I'M NOT A SAVIOR...


...BUT I SUPPOSE WE REALLY HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE.
I'VE BEEN DEPRIVED OF THE POWERS I ONCE HAD. THIS MIGHT BE THE ONLY WAY. VERY WELL--TEACH ME THIS EXORCISM AND I WILL TRY.
NO--NOT ALONE.
:SIGH: I REMEMBER THAT FIRST NIGHT IN THE CHURCH. THAT FIRST TIME...WE TOUCHED. I MUST HAVE LOOKED PRETTY STUPID--I WANTED YOU TO THINK I WAS A PILLAR OF STRENGTH--THE COMPASSIONATE PRIEST. BUT TRUTHFULLY, YOU SCARED ME, AVENGELYNE...
...BECAUSE I COULD FEEL THE PURITY WITHIN YOU.
AND NOW THAT I KNOW WHY... IT'S HARD TO PUT MY FEELINGS INTO WORDS...
ONE THING'S FOR CERTAIN, YOU AND I ARE BOTH COMMITTED TO GOD. HE SENT YOU HERE FOR A REASON--TO PROTECT US FROM BELISLE.
I'D LIKE TO BELIEVE THAT, PETER, BUT IT'S NOT TRUE.
IT'S TOO DANGEROUS FOR YOU. YOU'VE SEEN WHAT THEY ARE--WHAT THEY CAN DO.
I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT ALL THAT. BUT IF THIS IS GOING TO WORK, A PRIEST MUST RECITE THE SCRIPTURE. I HAVE A DUTY TO THE CHURCH THAT I CANNOT IGNORE. BUT MORE THAN THAT...I DON'T WANT YOU GOING ALONE. I WANT US TO FACE THIS...
I AM HERE TO BE PUNISHED, NOTHING MORE.
PERHAPS, BUT EVERYTHING DEPENDS ON US NOW.
...TOGETHER.

A SHORT TIME LATER...
SO, THAT'S IT...
...THE INFAMOUS BELISLE TOWERS.
IT'S BUILT LIKE A FORTRESS. I'M NOT SURE HOW WE'RE GOING TO GET IN!--
--AVENGELYNE?
PETER, COME WITH ME, QUICKLY.
CENTRAL PARK.
AVENGELYNE, WHERE ARE WE GOING?
HURRY, IT'S NOT MUCH FARTHER.
HERE...THIS STATUE--THIS IS HOW WE'RE GETTING IN. ALL I HAVE TO DO IS TOUCH THE BASE AND--
MY GOODNESS! THIS IS A STATUE OF ST. AUGUSTINE--IT'S BEEN HERE FOR YEARS.
ST. AUGUSTINE
BELISLE MUST HAVE MADE SOME CHANGES AFTER HE ARRIVED ON EARTH.
SO, THIS IS ST. AUGUSTINE. LEADING ME TO THIS ENTRANCE MUST BE BELISLE'S ATTEMPT AT HUMOR.
HE... LED YOU HERE?
SOMEONE DID--THE IMAGE OF THIS TUNNEL APPEARED IN MY MIND. THEY KNOW WE'RE COMING, PETER. IT'S NOT TOO LATE FOR YOU TO GO BACK.
NO, I TOLD YOU-- WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER.
LATER...
WE MUST BE A MILE STRAIGHT DOWN-- CAN YOU SEE ANYTHING?
THERE'S A LIGHT JUST AHEAD...

...WE'VE FOUND WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR.
PROTECT US, FATHER.
IN HELL, THE DRAGON AND HIS DEMONS RESIDE IN A GREAT CITADEL CALLED PANDEMONIUM. IT'S A LOT LIKE THIS, ONLY WORSE.
BUT WHERE ARE THEY? WHY WERE WE ALLOWED IN HERE?
IT'S A TRAP.
BUT IF WE'RE LUCKY, BELISLE WAS DELAYED WHEN HE WENT TO ST. AUGUSTINE TO CONCLUDE HIS BUSINESS. WE MIGHT HAVE A LITTLE TIME.
IT'S INCREDIBLE... HIDDEN UNDER THE CITY ALL THIS TIME.
YES...THE THRONE ROOM OF A DEMON LORD IS HIS SANCTUM. NOTHING CAN DISTURB ITS SEALS.
WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT.
DID YOUR BROTHER REMOVE ENOUGH BLOOD?
ANY MORE THAN THIS AND YOU'D BE TOO WEAK TO BE HERE. IF THIS WORKS, YOUR BLOOD SHOULD EMPOWER THE CROSS. AND IF IT DOESN'T WORK...WELL, IT'S--
HA HA HA-- HELLO, AVENGELYNE.
THAT VOICE?!

DON'T TELL ME YOU'VE FORGOTTEN YOUR OLD FRIEND GABRIEL?! WE SERVED TOGETHER IN THE WARHOST!
GABRIEL, NO! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO YOURSELF-- YOU--YOU USED TO BE AN ANGEL--
UNTIL OUR FATHER BANISHED ME FROM HEAVEN! I TRIED TO LIVE AS A MORTAL, AVENGELYNE, BUT I COULDN'T STAND THE WEAKNESS!
PETER, DON'T STOP WORKING!
YOU'RE A FOOL, AVENGELYNE! B'LIALE OFFERED YOU PERFECTION--A CHANCE TO BECOME IMMORTAL AGAIN--AND YOU SPIT IN HIS FACE!
GABRIEL, WE SERVED TOGETHER-- D-DON'T MAKE ME--
MAKE YOU WHAT?! THERE'S ONLY ONE THING YOU'RE GOING TO DO, MORTAL--
--AND THAT'S DIE!
NO-- PETER, HELP MEEEEEEE!

AVENGELYNE?!
AVENGELYNE?!
HEH HEH HEH...
HEH HEH HEH...
HA HA HA HA
UHHH-- C-CAN'T HOLD ON...
N-NOT OVER...I'M SORRY, GABRIEL.
FWIP!
THUKK
IT'S OVER, AVENGELYNE. BUT JUST THINK, MAYBE DADDY WILL TAKE YOU BACK!
I'M TRULY SORRY...
AAAHHHH

SOMETIME LATER...
WHAT... NO...
PETER...?
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?! PETER!!
HAHAHA!
H'LANA!
POOR LITTLE WARHOST--JUST CAN'T TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOUR PRIEST, CAN YOU?
MAYBE YOU SHOULD GO TO THE VATICAN AND SEDUCE ANOTHER ONE--
--SWEET PETER'S BROKEN. I SUPPOSE I'M JUST TOO ROUGH WITH OTHER PEOPLE'S TOYS!
NO! NO!

I'M GOING TO MAKE YOU SUFFER FOR EVERYTHING YOU'VE DONE TO HIM!
YOU'RE NOT VERY FORGIVING FOR AN ANGEL--
PERHAPS WE'RE MORE ALIKE THAN YOU REALIZE!
WAK!
I'M NOTHING LIKE YOU! YOU'RE AN ABOMINATION! I'LL DESTROY YOU IF IT'S THE LAST THING I DO!
THAT'S THE SPIRIT, ANGEL--IT'S MORE FUN IF YOU DIE KICKING AND SCREAMING!
CHOKK!
UGH!
THUK

THIS TORCH IS DECORATED WITH THE SKULL OF THE LAST ANGEL WHO DEFIED OUR WILL!
I KEEP IT CLOSE BY FOR JUST SUCH AN OCCASION!
I'VE ENJOYED OUR LITTLE TRYSTS, WARHOST, BUT NOW IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO TAKE UP RESIDENCE IN THE BROTHELS OF HELL!
ENJOY DAMNATION, BITCH--
SHUNK!
YOU FORGOT SOMETHING, DEMON--
--THE LORD'S ON MY SIDE.
PETER?!

ELSEWHERE IN THE SANCTUM...
DID YOU SIGN THE CONTRACT WITH ST. AUGUSTINE?
NO, BUT MALORY ASSURES ME THAT THE DELAY IS ONLY TEMPORARY. WE ARE SCHEDULED TO MEET AGAIN TOMORROW AND CONCLUDE THE ARRANGEMENTS.
HE'S LYING. AVENGELYNE MUST HAVE WARNED HIM ABOUT US. I'M SURPRISED HE WOULD EVEN LISTEN TO HER.
SHE SHOULD HAVE BEEN DESTROYED THE MOMENT SHE ARRIVED!
MIND YOUR TONGUE, ADVISOR. AVENGELYNE WAS WORTH MORE TO ME ALIVE THAN DEAD. SHE'S BECOME A MINOR NUISANCE--NOTHING MORE.
AND YOU'LL BE PLEASED TO KNOW I'VE GRANTED H'LANA HER WISH.
BY NOW...
...THE WARHOST AND HER PET PRIEST...
...HAVE BEEN EXCOMMUNI-CATED.
NOTHING WILL PREVENT ME FROM OPENING THE GATEWAY--HELL ITSELF SHALL RISE TO THE SURFACE OF THE EARTH. THEN--FINALLY--MY FATHER IN HEAVEN AND MY MASTER IN HELL WILL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO REGARD ME AS AN EQUAL.
I AM B'LIALE--LORD OF EARTH!

H'LANA? WHERE ARE YOU? I HAVE NO PATIENCE TONIGHT FOR THESE GAMES.
COME FORTH, BELOVED, AND GREET YOUR LORD.
THAT SWORD...
...WAS DROPPED IN HASTE.
PERHAPS MY BELOVED H'LANA EXECUTED AVENGELYNE AND IS POLISHING THE ANGEL'S SKULL IN HER TROPHY ROOM.
SOMETIMES HER EGO RIVALS MY OWN.
EH?
SO, YOU'VE RETURNED AT LAST.
SPEAK. WAS IT ENJOYABLE? DID THE LOVELY WARHOST BEG FOR MERCY AS YOU SLIT HER THROAT?
H'LANA? WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU?!
H'LANA?!
THUNK
MY POOR DEAR, H'LANA. YOU SERVED ME WELL AS CONSORT AND PROTECTOR.
YOU SHALL BE REMEMBERED WITH HONOR.

DON'T GRIEVE TOO MUCH, LORD B'LIALE.
YOU'LL BE JOINING HER SOON ENOUGH.
HA HA HA.
AVENGELYNE... YOU'RE SO VERY SEDUCTIVE. STRENGTH AND DIVINITY--ENCASED IN FLESH AND BLOOD. I KNEW FROM THE MOMENT I SAW YOU IN THE GARDEN AT ST. AUGUSTINE THAT YOU WOULD BE MINE.
YOU WERE DESTINED TO TAKE K'LANA'S PLACE.
NEVER, B'LIALE!
YOU PLAYED THE GAME WELL, AVENGELYNE--BUT THIS LAST GAMBIT--
--HAS BEEN ALL TOO PREDICTABLE.
NO..
HELLO, PRIEST--WHAT WERE YOU DOING BACK THERE? CONCOCTING A PLAN TO DROWN ME IN A BASIN OF HOLY WATER?!
AVENGELYNE, YOU KNOW THERE IS NO POWER ON EARTH THAT CAN DESTROY OUR KIND.
ALL YOU'VE ACCOMPLISHED BY BRINGING HIM HERE IS GIVING ME THE PERFECT WEAPON TO USE AGAINST YOU!
NOW...
RENOUNCE OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN, AND I'LL SPARE HIS LIFE.
V-VERY WELL...BUT YOU MUST LET HIM GO FIRST.

THERE, YOU SEE-- I HAVE FULFILLED MY END OF OUR BARGAIN.
NOW FULFILL YOURS.
KNEEL BEFORE ME.
RENOUNCE GOD.
I WILL RETURN THE PRIEST TO HIS WORLD UNHARMED...
...HE IS OF NO GREAT CONSEQUENCE TO ME. THEN, TONIGHT, YOU AND I SHALL CONSUMMATE OUR UNION.
I LOOK FORWARD TO HAVING YOU AS MY NEW CONSORT. H'LANA HAD BECOME...BORING. BUT YOU...I HAVE SOME PLEASURABLE THINGS IN STORE FOR YOU... BELOVED.
IT'S WORKING...HE DIDN'T NOTICE THE BLOOD CROSS UNDER THE SWORD... BUT THE SCRIPTURE...MUST WAIT...FOR THE RIGHT MOMENT...
SAY IT!
TELL ME THAT YOU DESPISE OUR FATHER AND ALL HE STANDS FOR!
"THERE MET JESUS TWO POSSESSED WITH DEVILS... COMING OUT OF THE TOMBS...SO THAT NO MAN MIGHT PASS BY THAT WAY..."
SAY IT, SO I MAY HAVE YOU!

"THE DEVILS CRIED OUT, SAYING... WHAT HAVE WE TO DO WITH THEE, THOU SON OF GOD...AND JESUS SAID UNTO THEM...
"GO!"
AVENGE-LYNE, NOW!
WHAT?!
YOU'RE THE PREDICTABLE ONE, B'LIALE--
--THIS IS OUR TRAP NOW, NOT YOURS!
THIS IS AN OUTRAGE! YOU THINK A MERE SWORD CAN STOP LORD B'LIALE?!
NOT JUST A SWORD...

HOW HAVE YOU SUMMONED THIS POWER? H'LANA WAS RIGHT--I SHOULD HAVE DESTROYED YOU IMMEDIATELY!
I'M SENDING YOU TO HELL, AVENGELYNE-- AND THERE YOU SHALL SUFFER LIKE NO BEING HAS SUFFERED BEFORE!
HURRY, AVENGELYNE-- THERE ISN'T MUCH TIME!
DEMONS OF HELL, COME FORTH. I SUMMON ALL THE POWERS OF DARKNESS TO DEVOUR THIS LIGHT!
IT'S TOO LATE, B'LIALE! THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE YOU FORGOT--

--THE BEST WAY TO SLAY A DEMON--IS TO PIERCE HIS HEART WITH A HOLY SWORD!
NO!!

NO NO!!
PETER! RUN!
VOOSH!
IT WORKED-- IT'S TAKING HIM AWAY!
HIM AND THIS ENTIRE PLACE!
KZAK!
LOOK! THE BUILDING--
--IT'S VANISHING!
...IT'S GONE...
...WE'VE WON!

OH, PETER, WE DID IT! THE CHURCHES ARE FREE OF HIM! WE'RE ALL FREE OF HIM!
I TOLD YOU WE COULD DO IT...WITH GOD'S HELP. WE JUST NEEDED...
...A LITTLE FAITH.
I KNOW... BUT...
...I'M STILL HERE, I HOPED FATHER WOULD COME FOR ME.
HE WILL SOMEDAY...
...BUT UNTIL THEN...
...YOUR HOME IS WITH US.

It's been weeks since the destruction of the Belisle Towers.
Peter told Father Malory everything. He said he didn't want any lies between them. I agreed. It was difficult at first, but Peter convinced him of the truth--about Belisle...and me.

Sometimes, I wonder, though... do they really believe that I was born an angel? That I have heard the trumpets of heaven...and experienced the love of God, first hand?

It doesn't matter, I suppose. They've accepted me as I am now--that's the important thing.
And father is still with me--his faith is still in my heart. One day, perhaps...If I've earned it...he'll come back for me. But until that moment comes, I have a home here on earth...a loving home...
...and a new family.
JOURNAL
END

AVENGELYNE

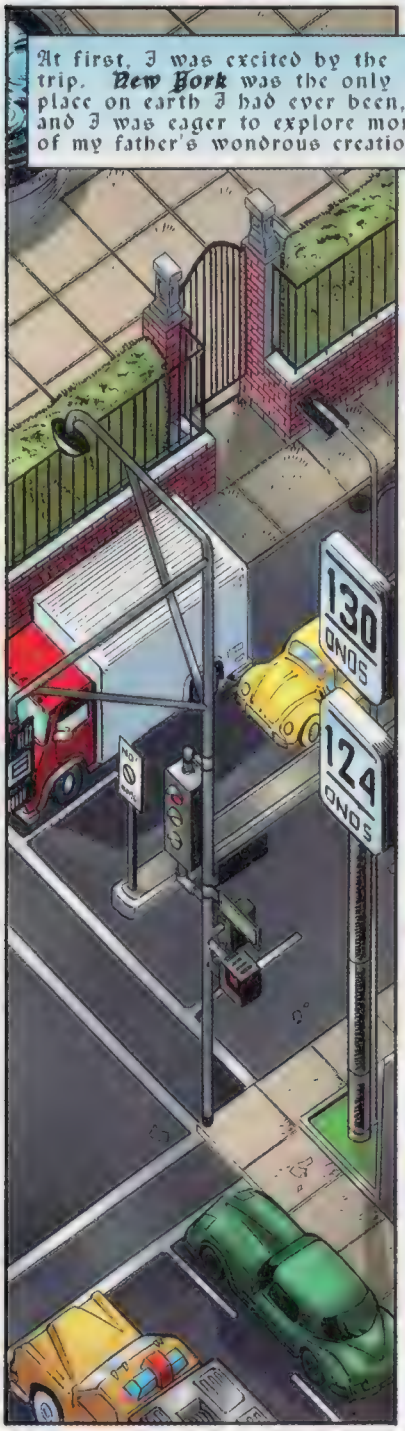
CHAPTER 4

SOMEBODY-- HELP ME!
ANYBODY F$%IN' MOVE AND I'LL BLOW THIS B%*%*H'S HEAD OFF!
YOU'RE SURROUNDED-- JUST LET THE GIRL GO. WE'VE GOT TWENTY SQUAD CARS ROLLING--PUT DOWN THE GUN AND NOBODY'LL GET HURT!
#5% YOU, MAN! ANYBODY TAKES A SHOT AT ME THE BULLET GOES THROUGH HER FIRST-- YOU HEAR ME, COP!
AVENGELYNE, I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING, BUT THE POLICE CAN HANDLE THIS--JUST STAY CALM.
BUT THEY MAY HARM HER.
DAMN, I SHOULD HAVE STAYED IN JERSEY!

OKAY, I WANT A PLANE AND--
THOK!
WHY DON'T YOU LEAVE HER ALONE!
CRASH!
OH, S#%T!
YOU SOME KIND OF SUPER HERO B%$&H?! OKAY, LET'S SEE YOU DODGE SOME SPEEDING BULLETS!

THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY!
YOU'RE #$%&IN' CRAZY, GET AWAY FROM ME!
SMACK
WITH PLEASURE!
MAY FATHER SHOW YOU MERCY ON THE DAY OF RECKONING.
AVENGELYNE, LET'S GO BEFORE MORE POLICE CARS ARRIVE.
I'M SORRY, PETER-- I HAD TO DO SOMETHING.
WELCOME TO THE CITY OF ANGELS
LOS ANGELES
IT'S ALL RIGHT. BY THE WAY...WELCOME TO LOS ANGELES.

The city of angels... an ironic name given the welcome we received at the airport.
HOLLYWOOD
After our trials with Devlin, Glory, and B'lizle*, Peter and I both needed a change of scenery. So we traveled west to Los Angeles, or L.A. as its residents call it.
WHAT'S UP D?
*Avengelyne/Glory, Glory/Avengelyne cross-overs--Matt.


At first, I was excited by the trip. New York was the only place on earth I had ever been, and I was eager to explore more of my father's wondrous creation.
130 ONOS
124 ONOS

We were there to attend the Crusade Festival--an annual gathering dedicated to my father's teachings. Peter described it as a joyous celebration of the lord--complete with worshipers, music, and prayer.
As we neared a place called Hollywood, it became clear to me that this city was in desperate need of such a celebration.

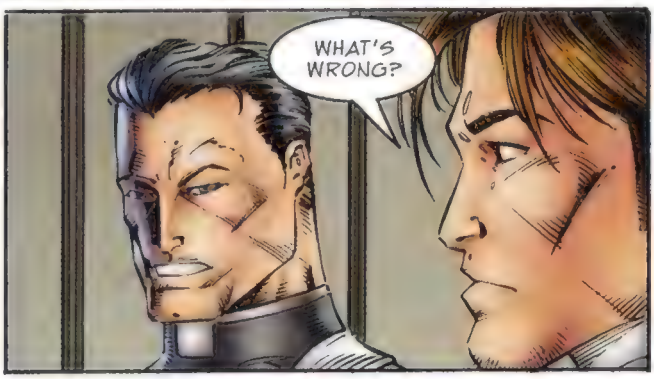
WE'RE HERE, FATHER--CORNER OF HIGHLAND AND FOUNTAIN, ONE BLOCK WEST OF HOLLYWOOD BOULEVARD.

CHEVRON
REGULAR
$1.50
SUPER UNLEADED
$2.00
YOU KEEP A CLOSE EYE ON THAT LITTLE BEAUTY, PADRE-- GIRL LIKE THAT COULD GET THE WRONG KIND OF FELLA AFTER HER AROUND HERE.
BELIEVE ME, SHE CAN HANDLE HERSELF, BUT THANKS ANYWAY.
We arrived at the St. Ambrose church in Hollywood, a parish overseen by Father David Anderson. He and Peter had been friends for many years and their reunion for the festival was something of a tradition.

PETER, THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH THE AIR--IT SMELLS LIKE THE SULFUR OF PANDEMONIUM*.
IT'S JUST SMOG...RELAX. IT CAN ONLY HURT YOU IF YOU LIVE HERE A LONG TIME.
*Pandemonium is the fortress citadel of Hell--Matt.
PETER--AT LAST!
DAVID!
IT'S SO GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN.
I KNOW, IT'S ONLY BEEN A YEAR, BUT IT SEEMS LIKE A LIFETIME. TELL ME, HOW'S FATHER MALORY?
HARD AT WORK, AS USUAL. DAVID, THIS IS THE FRIEND I'VE TOLD YOU SO MUCH ABOUT. DAVID ANDERSON, AVENGELYNE.
IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU FINALLY.
PETER'S TOLD ME SO MANY THINGS ABOUT YOU, I FEEL AS IF I KNOW YOU ALREADY. WELCOME TO ST. AMBROSE.
OH, WHILE I'M THINKING ABOUT IT, AVENGELYNE, THE PARCEL YOU SENT HERE ARRIVED YESTERDAY. IT'S IN THE RECTORY, BUT FIRST LET ME SHOW YOU AROUND THE CHURCH, THEN I'LL GET IT FOR YOU.
I HOPE I WON'T NEED WHAT'S INSIDE THAT PACKAGE.

FROM ALL ACCOUNTS, PETER, THIS YEAR'S CRUSADE FESTIVAL IS GOING TO BE THE BIGGEST ONE YET. CARTER CLARK IS EXPECTED TO ANNOUNCE HIS BID FOR THE PRESIDENCY AT THE CONCLUSION OF HIS ADDRESS.
WHO IS CARTER CLARK?

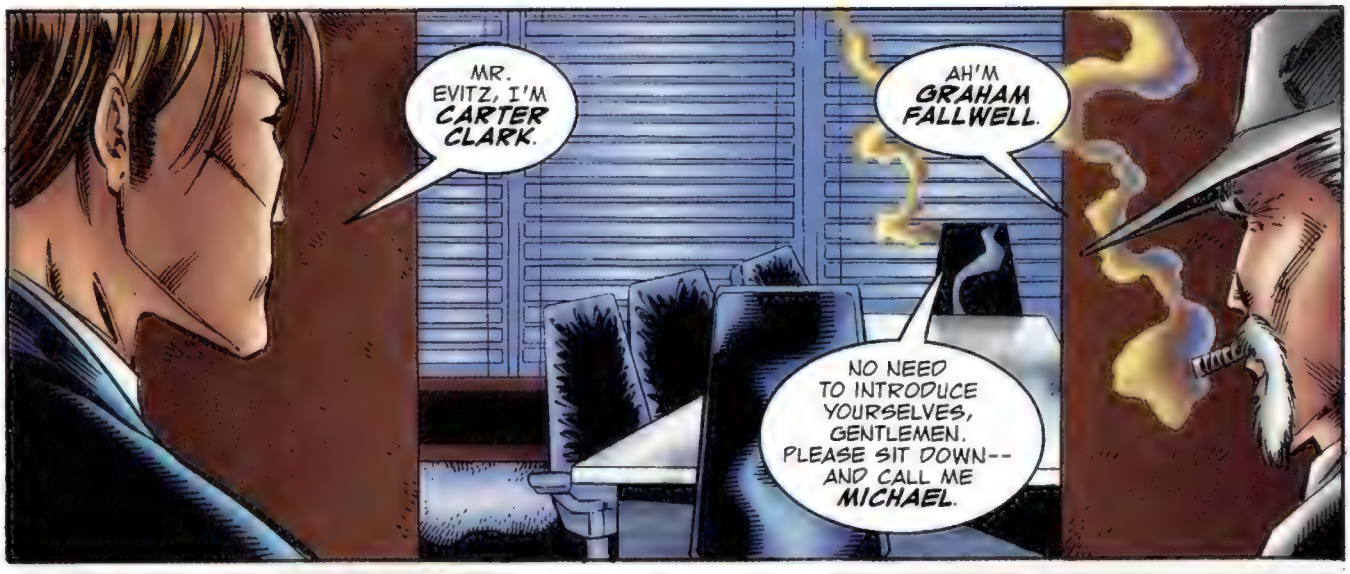
THAT'S THE QUESTION EVERYONE'S ASKING, AVENGELYNE.
TO SOME, CARTER CLARK'S A MERE TELEVANGELIST--HE HAS A WEEKLY PROGRAM CALLED THE MINISTRY OF TRUTH. BUT OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS, HE'S BUILT UP A GREAT DEAL OF POLITICAL CLOUT IN WASHINGTON--MANY BELIEVE HE CAN WIN THE REPUBLICAN NOMINATION FOR PRESIDENT.
I'LL SAY THIS FOR HIM, HE IS A MESMERIZING SPEAKER--I'VE SEEN HIM BEFORE. IT SHOULD BE GREAT FOR THE FESTIVAL.
IF THE PEOPLE ARE THERE TO HEAR IT.
I'M AFRAID YOU'VE ARRIVED AMID BLEAK TIMES.


WHAT'S WRONG?

THIS CITY IS IN CONSTANT TURMOIL, PETER--ITS PEOPLE ARE LOST. THEY NEED JESUS CHRIST TO SHOW THEM THE WAY, BUT THEY SIMPLY WON'T ANSWER HIS CALL.

COME WITH ME TODAY. I'M PASSING OUT FLIERS FOR THE FESTIVAL ALONG HOLLYWOOD BOULEVARD--THEN YOU'LL SEE FIRST HAND WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT.
I'M STARTING TO BELIEVE THAT THE END TIMES ARE UPON US.

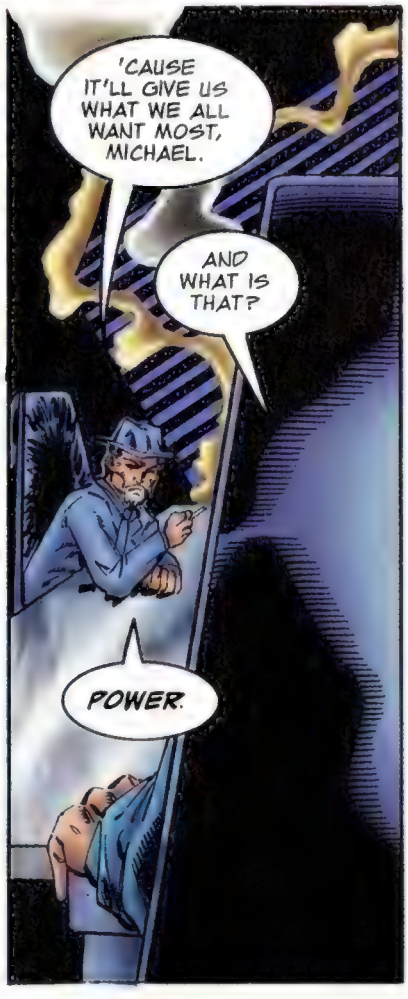
CENTURY CITY.
CCA--CREATIVE CONTROL ARTISTS TALENT AGENCY.
MR. EVITZ APOLOGIZES FOR THE DELAY, GENTLEMEN.
HE'S BEEN ON A CONFERENCE CALL ALL MORNING WITH PARAMOUNT STUDIOS NEGOTIATING STALLONE'S NEXT PICTURE. ANYTHING I CAN GET YOU WHILE YOU'RE WAITING--? ESPRESSO, BOWL OF ASSORTED FRUIT...
...ANYTHING AT ALL?
WHY, AH'M FINE, MISS--WHAT ABOUT YOU, CARTA? YOU THIRSTY OR ANYTHIN'?
NO, GRAHAM--I'M FINE. PLEASE ASSURE MR. EVITZ THAT WE'LL WAIT AS LONG AS HE LIKES.
IT'S NOT AS IF WE HAD ANY-THING ELSE PLANNED TODAY.
SHORTLY...
YOU WANTED ME, SIR?
THEY'VE WAITED LONG ENOUGH--SEND THEM IN.

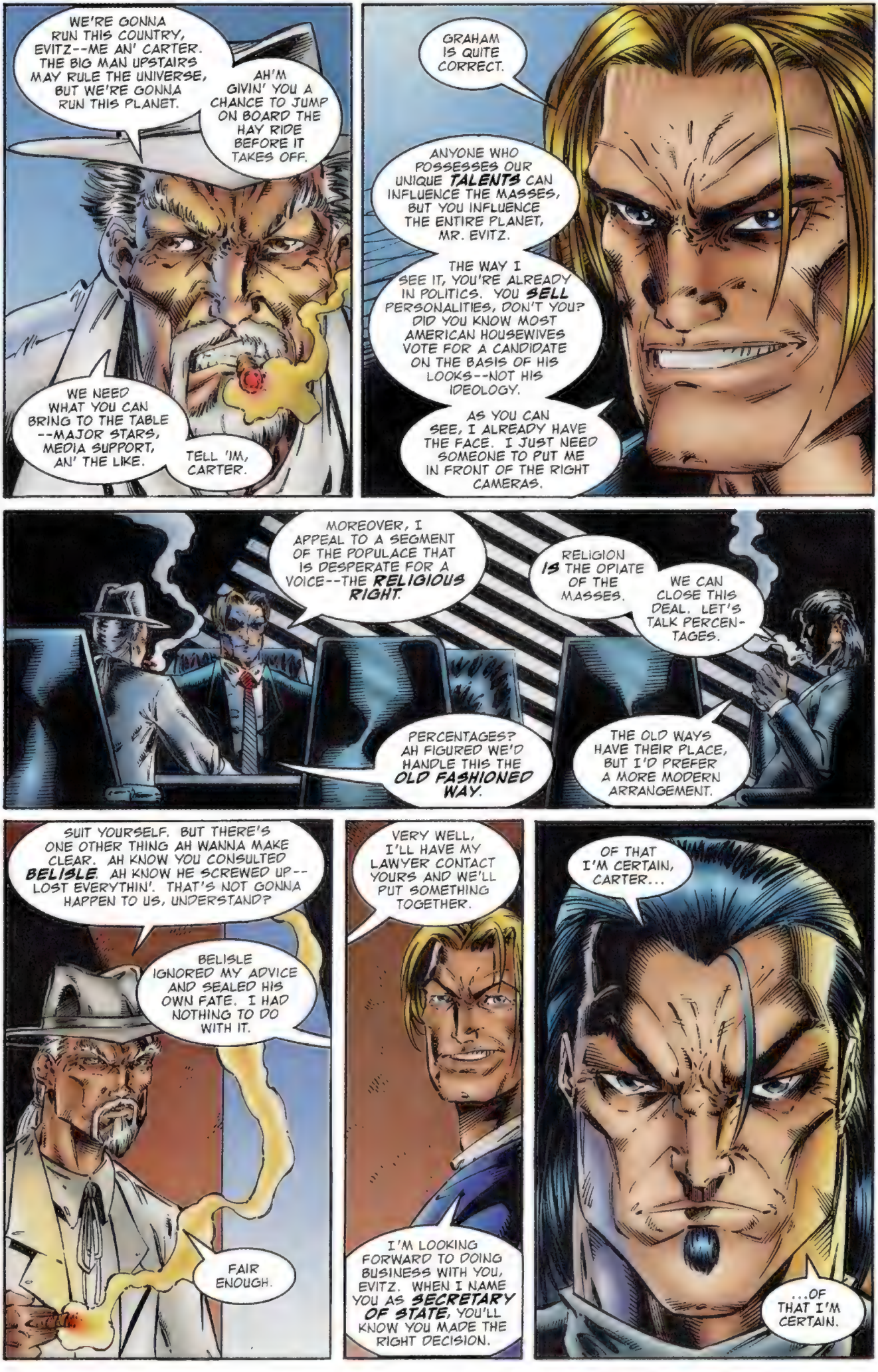

MR. EVITZ, I'M CARTER CLARK.
AH'M GRAHAM FALLWELL.
NO NEED TO INTRODUCE YOURSELVES, GENTLEMEN. PLEASE SIT DOWN-- AND CALL ME MICHAEL.

MR. EVITZ, uh, MICHAEL, AH'M THE SORT WHO SPEAKS MY MIND--SO THAT'S WHAT AH'M GONNA DO. CARTA IS MY BOY--AN' HE'S GONNA BE THE NEXT PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO IT.
I LIKE HIS STYLE-- MAKING US FACE THE BACK OF HIS CHAIR. THIS IS DEFINITELY THE MAN WE WANT.

NOW, THERE'S A LITTLE HOE-DOWN COMIN' UP CALLED THE CRUSADE FESTIVAL. THAT'S WHERE WE'RE GONNA MAKE THE ANNOUNCEMENT. WE WANT THE MEDIA TO COVER THIS THING LIKE A CHEAP SUIT. THAT'S WHERE YOU COME IN-- IT'S TIME WE JOINED FORCES.

GENTLEMEN...WE THREE ARE ICONOCLASTS EVEN WITHIN OUR OWN CIRCLES, AND I REPRESENT MANY PEOPLE IN THE ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY WHO SHARE OUR BELIEFS.
WHY SHOULD ANY OF US BECOME EMBROILED IN A PETTY POLITICAL CAMPAIGN?

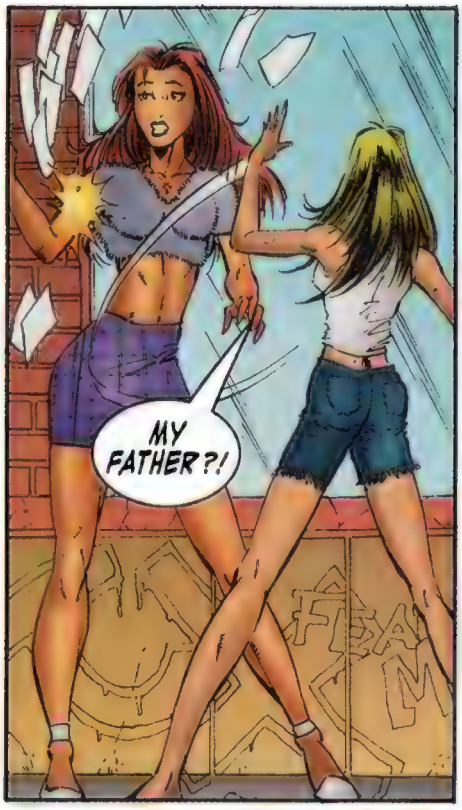

'CAUSE IT'LL GIVE US WHAT WE ALL WANT MOST, MICHAEL.
AND WHAT IS THAT?
POWER.


WE'RE GONNA RUN THIS COUNTRY, EVITZ--ME AN' CARTER. THE BIG MAN UPSTAIRS MAY RULE THE UNIVERSE, BUT WE'RE GONNA RUN THIS PLANET.
AH'M GIVIN' YOU A CHANCE TO JUMP ON BOARD THE HAY RIDE BEFORE IT TAKES OFF.
WE NEED WHAT YOU CAN BRING TO THE TABLE --MAJOR STARS, MEDIA SUPPORT, AN' THE LIKE.
TELL 'IM, CARTER.
GRAHAM IS QUITE CORRECT.
ANYONE WHO POSSESSES OUR UNIQUE TALENTS CAN INFLUENCE THE MASSES, BUT YOU INFLUENCE THE ENTIRE PLANET, MR. EVITZ.
THE WAY I SEE IT, YOU'RE ALREADY IN POLITICS. YOU SELL PERSONALITIES, DON'T YOU? DID YOU KNOW MOST AMERICAN HOUSEWIVES VOTE FOR A CANDIDATE ON THE BASIS OF HIS LOOKS--NOT HIS IDEOLOGY.
AS YOU CAN SEE, I ALREADY HAVE THE FACE. I JUST NEED SOMEONE TO PUT ME IN FRONT OF THE RIGHT CAMERAS.
MOREOVER, I APPEAL TO A SEGMENT OF THE POPULACE THAT IS DESPERATE FOR A VOICE--THE RELIGIOUS RIGHT.
RELIGION IS THE OPIATE OF THE MASSES.
WE CAN CLOSE THIS DEAL. LET'S TALK PERCENTAGES.
PERCENTAGES? AH FIGURED WE'D HANDLE THIS THE OLD FASHIONED WAY.
THE OLD WAYS HAVE THEIR PLACE, BUT I'D PREFER A MORE MODERN ARRANGEMENT.
SUIT YOURSELF. BUT THERE'S ONE OTHER THING AH WANNA MAKE CLEAR. AH KNOW YOU CONSULTED BELISLE. AH KNOW HE SCREWED UP--LOST EVERYTHIN'. THAT'S NOT GONNA HAPPEN TO US, UNDERSTAND?
BELISLE IGNORED MY ADVICE AND SEALED HIS OWN FATE. I HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT.
FAIR ENOUGH.
VERY WELL, I'LL HAVE MY LAWYER CONTACT YOURS AND WE'LL PUT SOMETHING TOGETHER.
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO DOING BUSINESS WITH YOU, EVITZ. WHEN I NAME YOU AS SECRETARY OF STATE, YOU'LL KNOW YOU MADE THE RIGHT DECISION.
OF THAT I'M CERTAIN, CARTER...
...OF THAT I'M CERTAIN.

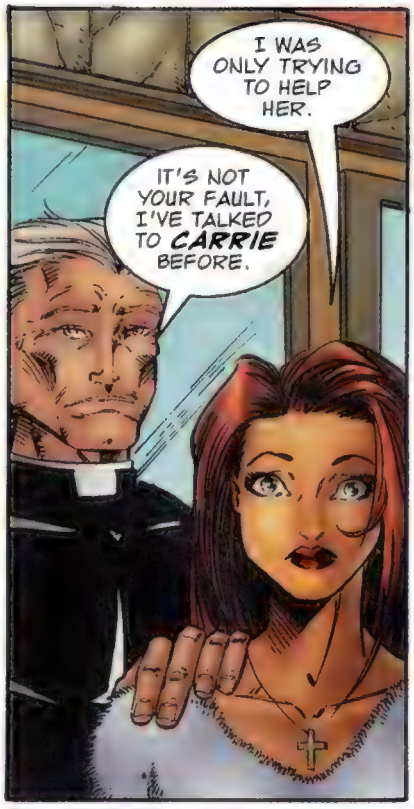
STACY, NO CALLS-- NO EXCEPTIONS. I DON'T WANT TO BE DISTURBED.
YES, SIR.
SO YOU WANT TO RULE THE WORLD, GENTLEMEN? THAT'S FINE, AS LONG AS I AM THE ONE WHO RULES YOU.
SPEAKING OF WHICH, I SHOULD SEE HOW THINGS ARE PROGRESSING BELOW.
DEEP UNDERNEATH THE CCA BUILDING.
MESSAGE COMING IN FROM TOKYO--THE OPERATION IS A SUCCESS--WARE-HOUSE DESTROYED.
THE WORLD'S LARGEST SUPPLIER OF COMPUTER CHIPS HAS JUST LOST ITS CACHE OF CPU'S NOW ONLY TETSGU INDUSTRIES CAN FILL THE DEMAND. MR. EVITZ'S STOCK IN THAT COMPANY SHOULD TRIPLE IN VALUE BY THE END OF BUSINESS TODAY.
I CONCUR.
WHAT IS THE PROGRESS ON OUR OPERATION IN MEXICO?
PRESIDENT GARCIA WAS ASSAS-SINATED SIX MINUTES AGO. MONTOYA SHOULD SUCCEED HIM WITHOUT INCIDENT.
ASSURE MR. MONTOYA THAT WE WILL EXPOSE HIS ROLE IN THE ASSAS-SINATION UNLESS HE DOES EXACTLY AS WE SAY.
GOOD DAY, GENTLEMEN.

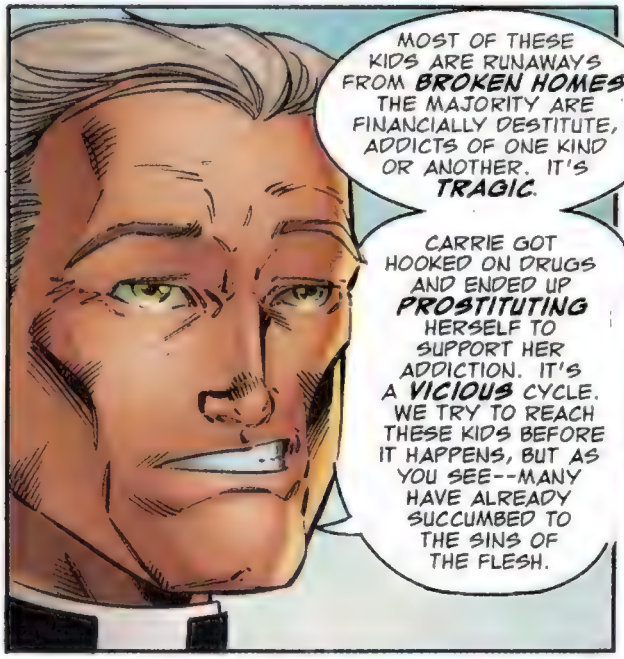
GOOD DAY, AMANDA.
HELLO, MICHAEL.
ARE WE HAVING A PROFITABLE AFTER-NOON?
HERE ARE THE FINANCIAL REPORTS--WE'RE HAVING OUR WAY WITH WALL STREET, SIR, AS USUAL.
YOU SEEM TO BE ENJOYING YOURSELF.
NOT AS MUCH AS LAST NIGHT.
WALL ST.
THAT WILL BE ALL, MISS WILDE, THANK YOU.
COMPTROLLER ONE--WE'RE ENTERING THE PRESIDENTIAL RACE. OUR CANDIDATE IS CARTER CLARK. START MAKING YOUR PREPARATIONS
YES, SIR.
I WANT HIM ON EVERY TALK SHOW--ON THE COVER OF EVERY PERIODICAL. INUNDATE THE MASSES WITH CLARK'S IMAGE--TARGET YOUNG, CONSERVATIVE, WHITE MEN AND WOMEN.
BY THE TIME WE'RE DONE, I WANT THE INCUMBENT VOTING FOR HIM, IS THAT UNDER-STOOD?
YES, SIR.

LATER THAT DAY.
PLEASE TAKE A FEW SECONDS AND READ THIS, OKAY?
JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL HARVEST AT THE CRUSADE FESTIVAL.
MAPS
HOURS
HELLO, MY NAME IS AVENGELYNE. WHAT'S YOURS?
J-JUST LEAVE ME ALONE, OKAY?
I CAN HELP YOU-- JUST TALK TO ME. WHAT IS YOUR NAME?
WHY DO YOU CARE?
I WANT YOU TO LISTEN TO ME. I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU ENDED UP HERE, BUT THERE IS A WAY OUT... THROUGH GOD.
ONLY THE FATHER ABOVE CAN DELIVER YOU FROM THIS PLACE. ONLY HIS LOVE AND MERCY CAN RESTORE YOUR SOUL. COME TO THE CRUSADE FESTIVAL--FIND OUT ABOUT THE DIVINITY WITHIN YOURSELF.
COME TO THE HARVEST
CAN'T YOU JUST LEAVE ME ALONE?!
CIRCUS
IF EDDIE SEES ME TALKING TO YOU, HE'S GONNA BEAT THE #$% OUT OF ME!
IS EDDIE YOUR FATHER?


MY FATHER?!

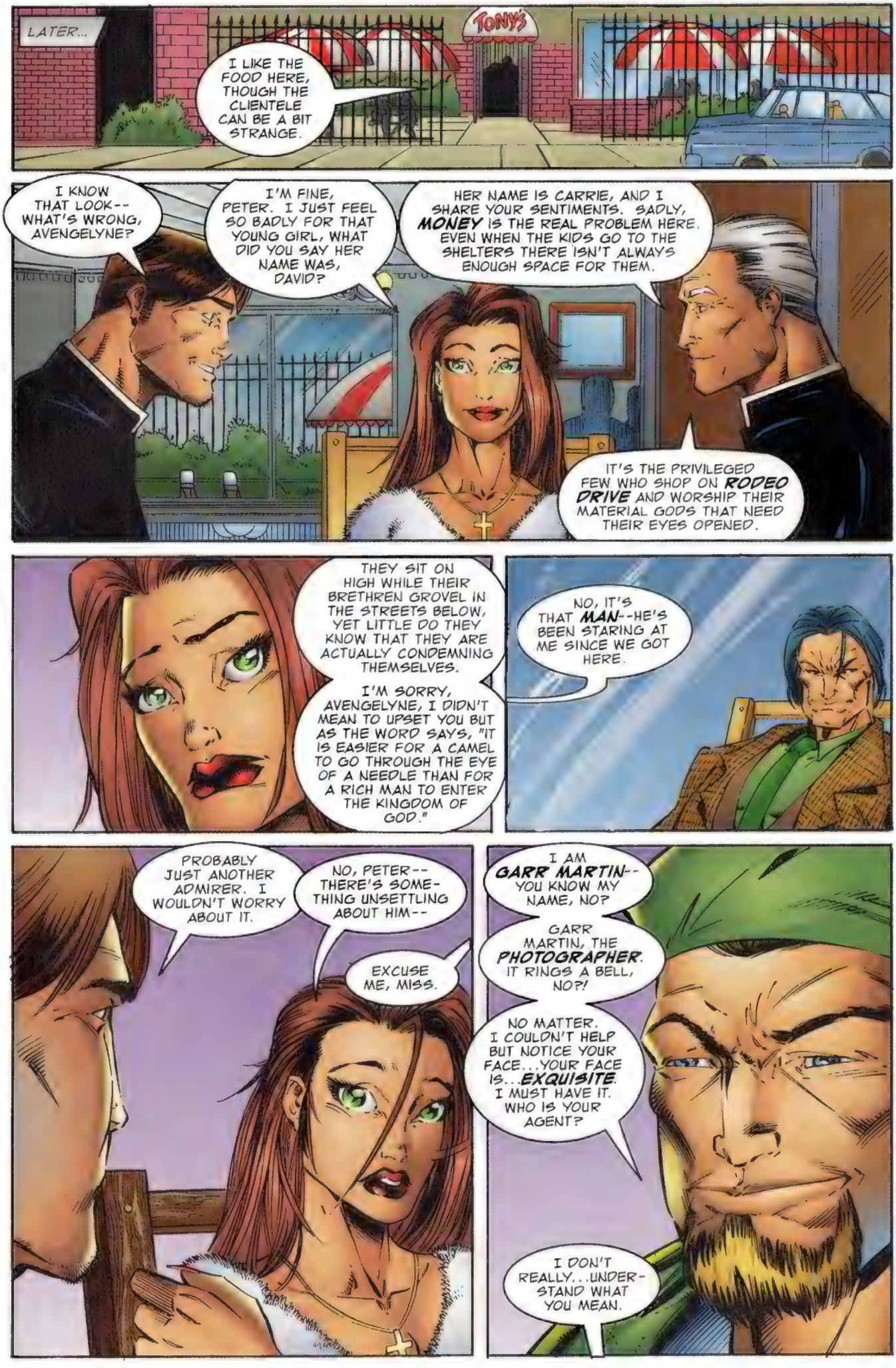
HE'S THE REASON I'M OUT HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE! JUST DO ME A FAVOR, AND GO BOTHER SOMEONE ELSE!


I WAS ONLY TRYING TO HELP HER.
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT, I'VE TALKED TO CARRIE BEFORE.

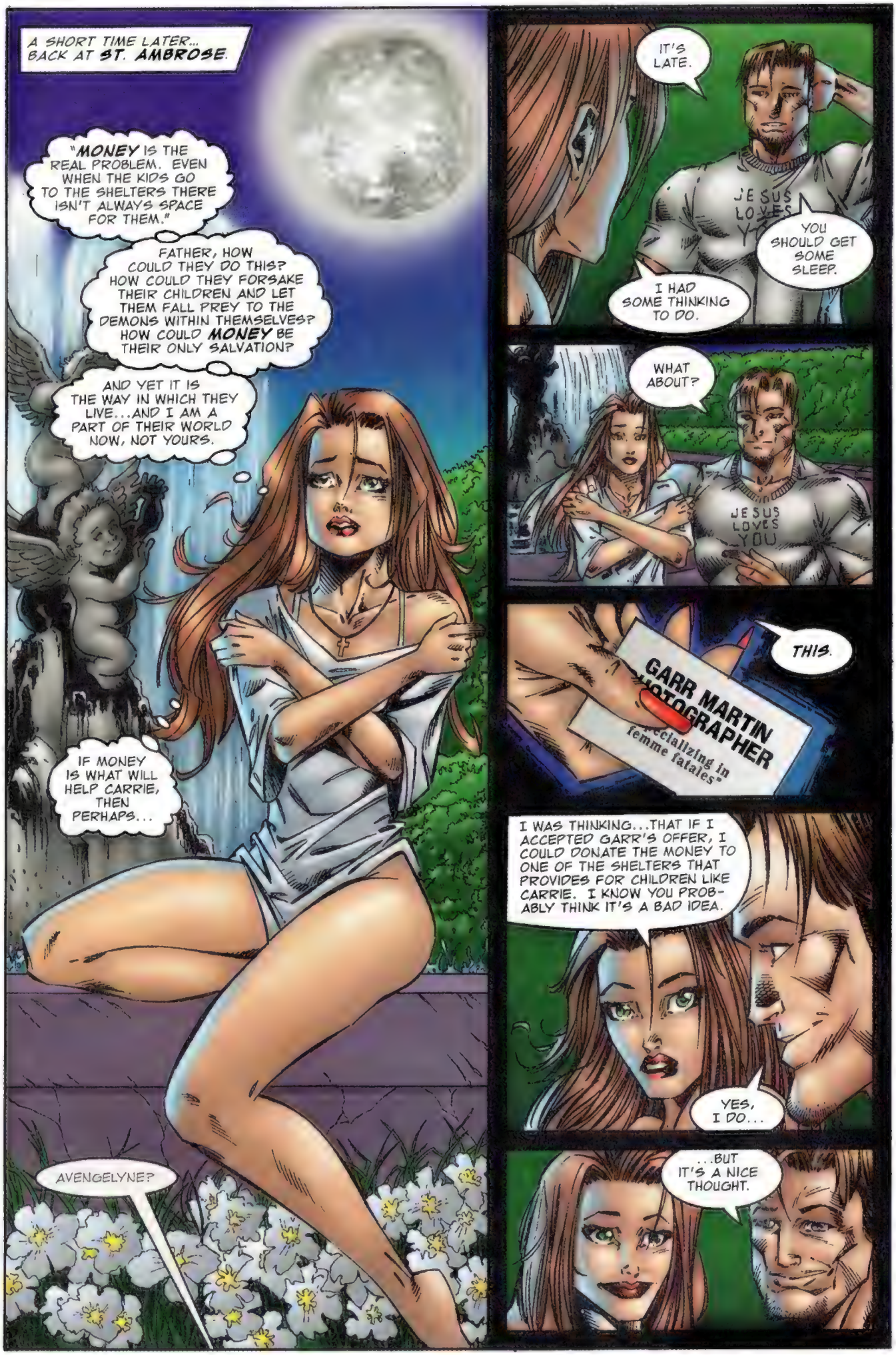

MOST OF THESE KIDS ARE RUNAWAYS FROM BROKEN HOMES. THE MAJORITY ARE FINANCIALLY DESTITUTE, ADDICTS OF ONE KIND OR ANOTHER. IT'S TRAGIC.
CARRIE GOT HOOKED ON DRUGS AND ENDED UP PROSTITUTING HERSELF TO SUPPORT HER ADDICTION. IT'S A VICIOUS CYCLE. WE TRY TO REACH THESE KIDS BEFORE IT HAPPENS, BUT AS YOU SEE--MANY HAVE ALREADY SUCCUMBED TO THE SINS OF THE FLESH.

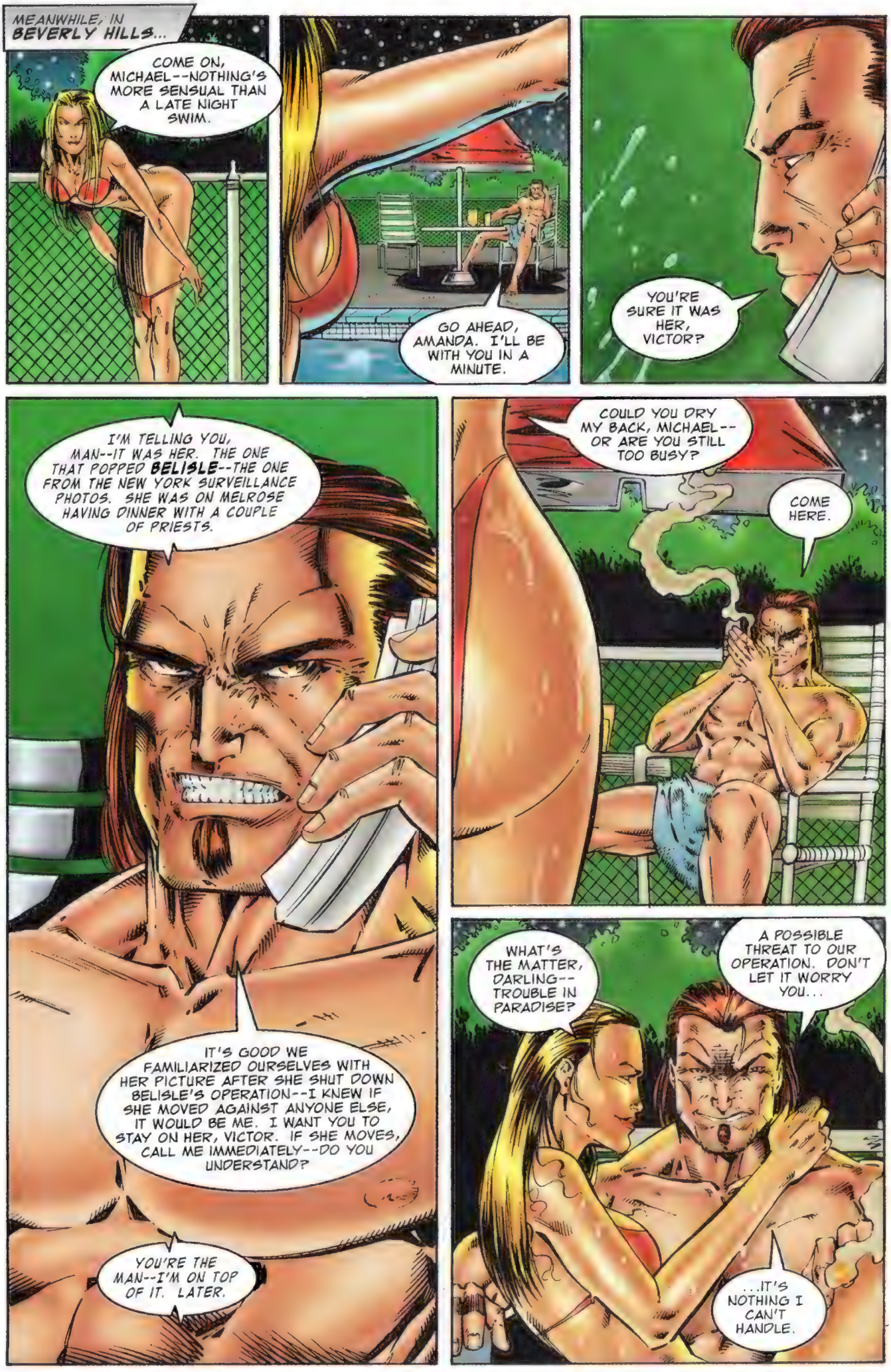
"...BEFORE THEY PAY THE ULTIMATE PRICE FOR THEIR SINS."
MIKE O'HARE
RAY MEAN

WHAT CAN WE DO?
THERE ARE COMMUNITY SHELTERS AND OTHER PROGRAMS, BUT UNLESS THE CHILD WANTS HELP THERE'S LITTLE WE CAN DO EXCEPT PRAY--AND HOPE THAT WE CAN SAVE A FEW...

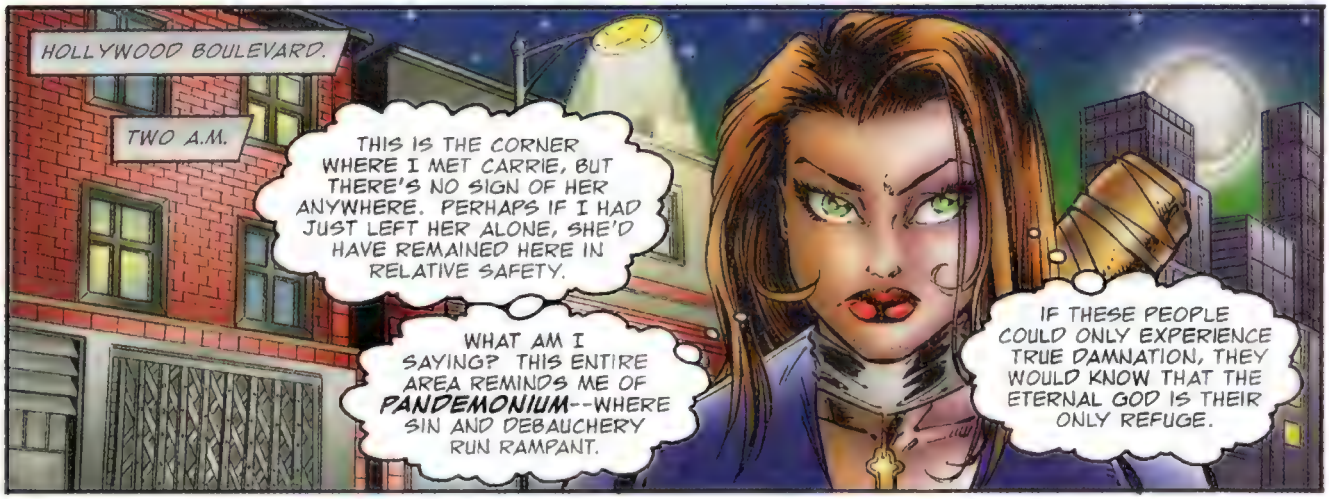

LATER...
TONY'S
I LIKE THE FOOD HERE, THOUGH THE CLIENTELE CAN BE A BIT STRANGE.
I KNOW THAT LOOK-- WHAT'S WRONG, AVENGELYNE?
I'M FINE, PETER. I JUST FEEL SO BADLY FOR THAT YOUNG GIRL, WHAT DID YOU SAY HER NAME WAS, DAVID?
HER NAME IS CARRIE, AND I SHARE YOUR SENTIMENTS. SADLY, MONEY IS THE REAL PROBLEM HERE. EVEN WHEN THE KIDS GO TO THE SHELTERS THERE ISN'T ALWAYS ENOUGH SPACE FOR THEM.
IT'S THE PRIVILEGED FEW WHO SHOP ON RODEO DRIVE AND WORSHIP THEIR MATERIAL GODS THAT NEED THEIR EYES OPENED.
THEY SIT ON HIGH WHILE THEIR BRETHREN GROVEL IN THE STREETS BELOW, YET LITTLE DO THEY KNOW THAT THEY ARE ACTUALLY CONDEMNING THEMSELVES.
I'M SORRY, AVENGELYNE, I DIDN'T MEAN TO UPSET YOU BUT AS THE WORD SAYS, "IT IS EASIER FOR A CAMEL TO GO THROUGH THE EYE OF A NEEDLE THAN FOR A RICH MAN TO ENTER THE KINGDOM OF GOD."
NO, IT'S THAT MAN--HE'S BEEN STARING AT ME SINCE WE GOT HERE.
PROBABLY JUST ANOTHER ADMIRER. I WOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
NO, PETER-- THERE'S SOMETHING UNSETTLING ABOUT HIM--
EXCUSE ME, MISS.
I AM GARR MARTIN-- YOU KNOW MY NAME, NO?
GARR MARTIN, THE PHOTOGRAPHER. IT RINGS A BELL, NO?!
NO MATTER. I COULDN'T HELP BUT NOTICE YOUR FACE...YOUR FACE IS...EXQUISITE. I MUST HAVE IT. WHO IS YOUR AGENT?
I DON'T REALLY...UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU MEAN.

HERE IS MY CARD.
Specializing in femme fatales
NOT IN THE BUSINESS, eh? EVEN BETTER--A VIRGIN FACE. NOT SINCE CINDY CRAWFORD HAVE I SEEN SUCH A FACE. I WILL PAY YOU TWENTY THOUSAND FOR A SINGLE SESSION, OKAY?
TWENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS?
YOU ARE PLAYING WITH GARR, NO?
OKAY, FIFTY THOUSAND, FOR A SINGLE SESSION WITH YOUR FACE. I HAVE AN INSTINCT ABOUT SUCH THINGS. MANY GIRLS GET STARTED WITH GARR--MANY END WITH GARR.
I JUST SHOT COURTNEY LOVE FOR THE NEXT COVER OF ROLLING STONE. INTERESTING FACE...JUST A LITTLE VACANT IN THE EYES.
NOT YOU-- YOUR EYES SPEAK OF FAR AWAY PLACES --MYSTERIOUS PLACES.
I REALLY DON'T KNOW... WHAT TO SAY.
THINK ABOUT IT, AND CALL GARR, NO?
WELL, I GUESS SO. GOODBYE.
PETER WAS RIGHT--ONE NIGHT IN TOWN AND ALREADY THEY WANT TO MAKE YOU A STAR. YOU'RE A VERY UNIQUE GIRL, AVENGELYNE.
WELL, THAT'S WHAT EVERYONE KEEPS TELLING ME.


A SHORT TIME LATER... BACK AT ST. AMBROSE.
"MONEY IS THE REAL PROBLEM. EVEN WHEN THE KIDS GO TO THE SHELTERS THERE ISN'T ALWAYS SPACE FOR THEM."
FATHER, HOW COULD THEY DO THIS? HOW COULD THEY FORSAKE THEIR CHILDREN AND LET THEM FALL PREY TO THE DEMONS WITHIN THEMSELVES? HOW COULD MONEY BE THEIR ONLY SALVATION?
AND YET IT IS THE WAY IN WHICH THEY LIVE...AND I AM A PART OF THEIR WORLD NOW, NOT YOURS.
IF MONEY IS WHAT WILL HELP CARRIE, THEN PERHAPS...
AVENGELYNE?
IT'S LATE.
JESUS LOVES YOU
YOU SHOULD GET SOME SLEEP.
I HAD SOME THINKING TO DO.
WHAT ABOUT?
JESUS LOVES YOU
THIS.
GARR MARTIN
PHOTOGRAPHER
specializing in femme fatales
I WAS THINKING...THAT IF I ACCEPTED GARR'S OFFER, I COULD DONATE THE MONEY TO ONE OF THE SHELTERS THAT PROVIDES FOR CHILDREN LIKE CARRIE. I KNOW YOU PROBABLY THINK IT'S A BAD IDEA.
YES, I DO...
...BUT IT'S A NICE THOUGHT.

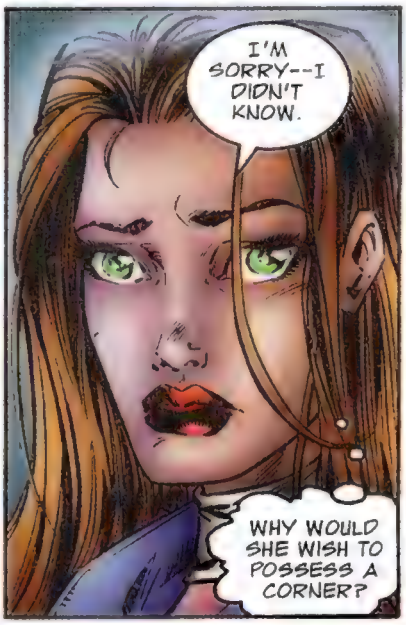

MEANWHILE, IN BEVERLY HILLS...
COME ON, MICHAEL--NOTHING'S MORE SENSUAL THAN A LATE NIGHT SWIM.
GO AHEAD, AMANDA. I'LL BE WITH YOU IN A MINUTE.
YOU'RE SURE IT WAS HER, VICTOR?
I'M TELLING YOU, MAN--IT WAS HER. THE ONE THAT POPPED BELISLE--THE ONE FROM THE NEW YORK SURVEILLANCE PHOTOS. SHE WAS ON MELROSE HAVING DINNER WITH A COUPLE OF PRIESTS.
IT'S GOOD WE FAMILIARIZED OURSELVES WITH HER PICTURE AFTER SHE SHUT DOWN BELISLE'S OPERATION--I KNEW IF SHE MOVED AGAINST ANYONE ELSE, IT WOULD BE ME. I WANT YOU TO STAY ON HER, VICTOR. IF SHE MOVES, CALL ME IMMEDIATELY--DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
YOU'RE THE MAN--I'M ON TOP OF IT. LATER.
COULD YOU DRY MY BACK, MICHAEL--OR ARE YOU STILL TOO BUSY?
COME HERE.
WHAT'S THE MATTER, DARLING--TROUBLE IN PARADISE?
A POSSIBLE THREAT TO OUR OPERATION. DON'T LET IT WORRY YOU...
...IT'S NOTHING I CAN'T HANDLE.

AVENGELYNE... AVENGELYNE...
...WE'RE GOING TO HAVE FUN WITH YOUR LITTLE FRIEND. JUST LIKE WE HAD FUN WITH YOU...REMEMBER?
RUN, CARRIE--RUN HOME TO DADDY!
RUN, AVENGELYNE--RUN FOR YOUR LIFE!
HUH?!
ANOTHER DREAM.
POOR CARRIE--SHE'S OUT THERE ALL ALONE--JUST LIKE I WAS ON THE NIGHT I ARRIVED HERE ON EARTH...I'VE GOT TO HELP HER.
PETER WAS CONCERNED ABOUT ME SENDING THIS "PACKAGE" OUT HERE.
I PROMISED HIM I'D ONLY USE ITS CONTENTS IF B'LIALE'S MINIONS FOLLOWED US, BUT THIS CAUSE IS JUST AS IMPORTANT.
AT LEAST I HAD MY FAITH TO PROTECT ME WHEN I FELL FROM HEAVEN, BUT CARRIE HAS NOTHING--NO ONE SHE CAN LOOK TO FOR STRENGTH. THAT IS WHY I MUST DO THIS...
...WHY I MUST AGAIN WIELD THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT.


HOLLYWOOD BOULEVARD.
TWO A.M.
THIS IS THE CORNER WHERE I MET CARRIE, BUT THERE'S NO SIGN OF HER ANYWHERE. PERHAPS IF I HAD JUST LEFT HER ALONE, SHE'D HAVE REMAINED HERE IN RELATIVE SAFETY.
WHAT AM I SAYING? THIS ENTIRE AREA REMINDS ME OF PANDEMONIUM--WHERE SIN AND DEBAUCHERY RUN RAMPANT.
IF THESE PEOPLE COULD ONLY EXPERIENCE TRUE DAMNATION, THEY WOULD KNOW THAT THE ETERNAL GOD IS THEIR ONLY REFUGE.

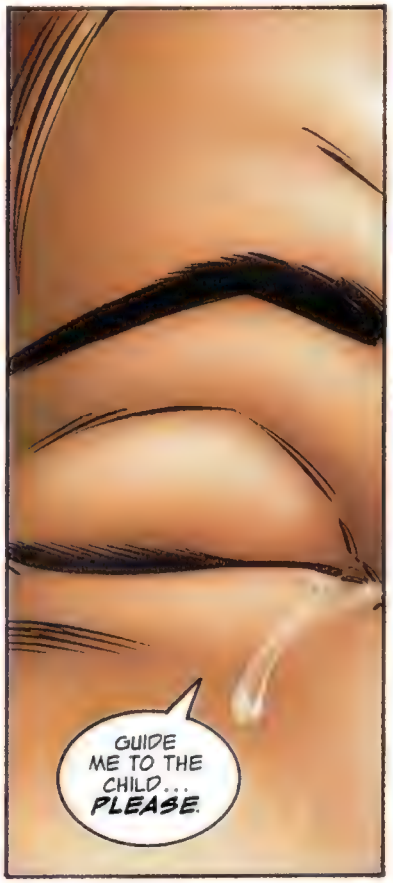
SHE'S NOT COMING BACK. PERHAPS IF I ASK SOMEONE...

EXCUSE ME, MISS--DO YOU KNOW A YOUNG GIRL NAMED CARRIE?
I DON'T KNOW HER SISTER, WHY DON'T YOU GET LOST, THIS IS MY CORNER.

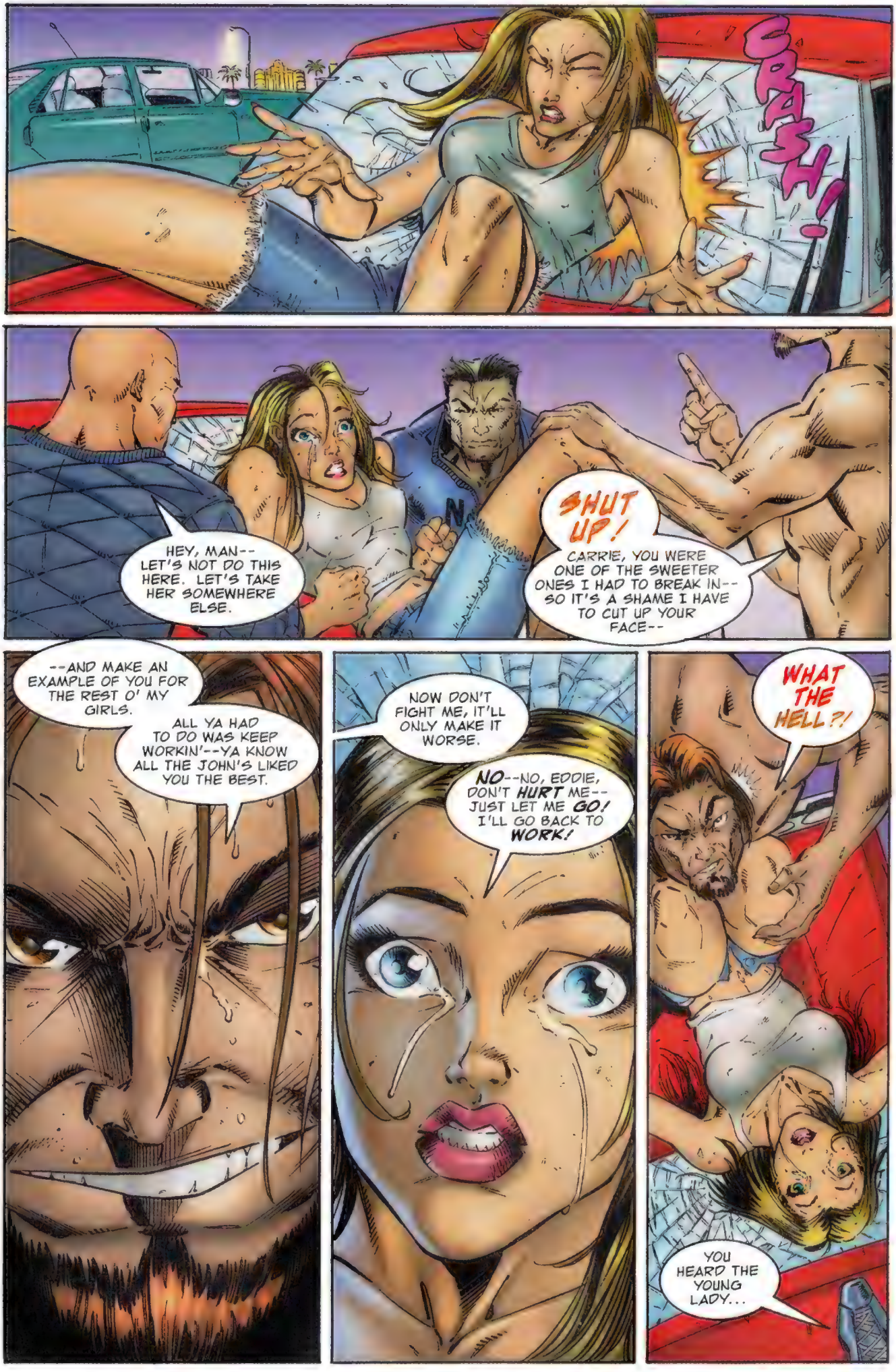

I'M SORRY--I DIDN'T KNOW.
WHY WOULD SHE WISH TO POSSESS A CORNER?

As I walked the streets of Hollywood, I was awed by the filth which surrounded me.
Even the lights cast an ugly neon glow.
At the time, it struck me that Lucifer had already won the battle for these people's souls.
I searched for Carrie, but found nothing. Desperate, I turned to the only one who could help me.
My father in heaven above.

I KNOW I'VE ASKED FOR YOUR HELP BEFORE, AND YOUR ANSWER WAS NO...BUT THIS IS DIFFERENT. THIS ISN'T FOR ME.
GIVE ME THE SIGHT I ONCE HAD, THE EYES OF AN ANGEL WHICH CAN SEE BEYOND THE WALLS AND GLASS OF THIS WORLD.


GUIDE ME TO THE CHILD... PLEASE.

WHAT'S THE MATTER, CARRIE, YOU DON'T WANNA TURN TRICKS FOR EDDIE NO MORE?
GET AWAY FROM ME, EDDIE! SOMEBODY HELP!
CARRIE!
NOW WHERE'D THAT LITTLE BS%*H GO?
WHAT'S HER PROBLEM, MAN? SHE STRUNG OUT OR SOMETHIN'?
BRETT'S VOO DOO LOUNGE
NAH, CARRIE RAN OUT ON ME LAST NIGHT--SAID SHE'S TIRED OF HOOKIN'. BUT ONCE YOU'RE ONE OF EDDIE'S GIRLS--HE OWNS YOU FOR LIFE!
NO, PLEASE... PLEASE...DON'T LET HIM FIND ME.
HUH?!
HIYA, CARRIE.
NIN
YOU KNOW, EDDIE'S BEEN GOIN' NUTS TRYIN' TO FIND YOU.


CRASH!
HEY, MAN-- LET'S NOT DO THIS HERE. LET'S TAKE HER SOMEWHERE ELSE.
SHUT UP!
CARRIE, YOU WERE ONE OF THE SWEETER ONES I HAD TO BREAK IN-- SO IT'S A SHAME I HAVE TO CUT UP YOUR FACE--
--AND MAKE AN EXAMPLE OF YOU FOR THE REST O' MY GIRLS.
ALL YA HAD TO DO WAS KEEP WORKIN'--YA KNOW ALL THE JOHN'S LIKED YOU THE BEST.
NOW DON'T FIGHT ME, IT'LL ONLY MAKE IT WORSE.
NO--NO, EDDIE, DON'T HURT ME-- JUST LET ME GO! I'LL GO BACK TO WORK!
WHAT THE HELL?!
YOU HEARD THE YOUNG LADY...

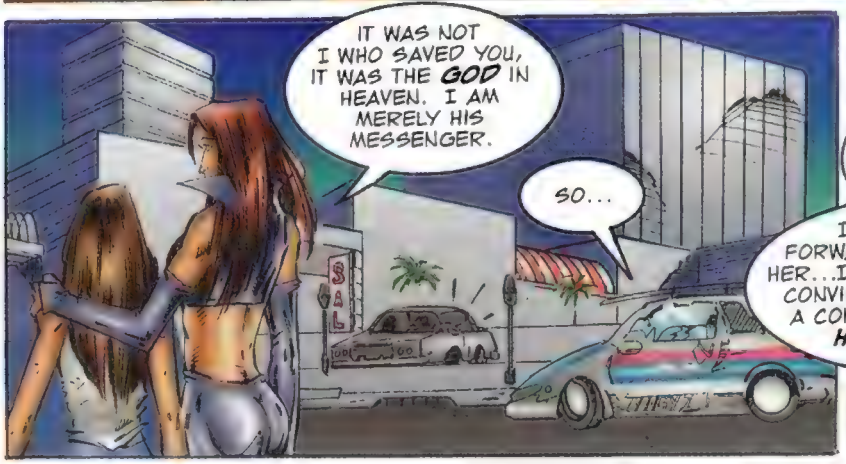
LET HER GO!
BOYS, LOOKS LIKE WE'RE GONNA HAVE DOUBLE THE FUN TONIGHT. THIS B&*#H THINKS SHE'S GLORY OR SOMETHING!
YOU HAVE WRONGED THIS GIRL, AND NOW YOU MUST PAY THE PRICE FOR YOUR ACTIONS...
"FOR THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH!"
BURGER

I'M GONNA CUT YOU, B#%$H! I'M GONNA CUT YOU BAD!
HEY, MAN-- THAT SWORD LOOKS PRETTY BIG TO ME. LET'S GET OUTTA HERE!
THE TIME FOR THAT HAS PASSED!
YOU SHALL NOT ESCAPE ME--
"--NOR MY RIGHTEOUS ANGER!"
SLAM!
THUD!
IT'S QUITE A DIFFERENT THING TO BE THE PREY, ISN'T IT, EDDIE?
COME ON, B$%&H, MAKE YOUR MOVE!

VERY WELL!
UGH!
THOK!
WAK!
UHH!
UHHH...

COME WITH ME, CARRIE.
YOU'RE-- YOU'RE THAT WOMAN FROM EARLIER.

YES, I KNOW IT'S DIFFICULT FOR YOU, CARRIE--YOU'VE OBVIOUSLY SUFFERED A GREAT DEAL. BUT YOU CAN TRUST ME--I ONLY WANT TO HELP YOU.
I...I DO TRUST YOU. TH-THANK YOU FOR SAVING ME.


IT WAS NOT I WHO SAVED YOU, IT WAS THE GOD IN HEAVEN. I AM MERELY HIS MESSENGER.
SO...

...OUR ANGEL IS AN AVENGING ONE.
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING HER...I WONDER IF I CAN CONVINCE HER TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH ME. HA, HA, HA!
TO BE CONTINUED!

AVENGELYNE

CHAPTER 5

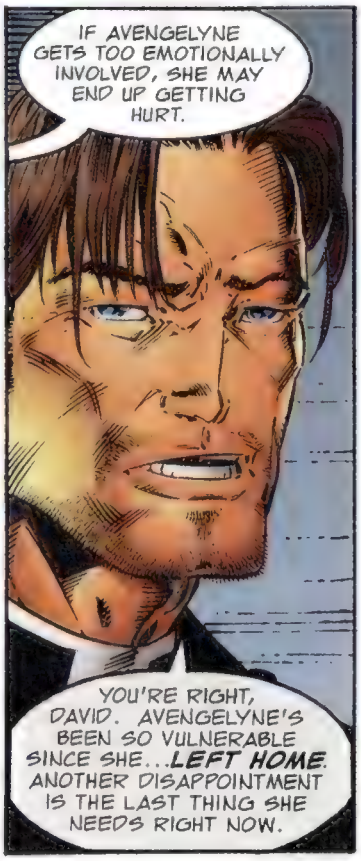
WELCOME BACK TO GOOD MORNING, LOS ANGELES, I'M YOUR HOST JANET LANG.
THIS SEGMENT WE HAVE A VERY SPECIAL GUEST--CARTER CLARK.
Left Lane
ANY TIME
GOOD MORNING L.A.
EVERY SUNDAY, YOU CAN SEE MR. CLARK ON THE IMMENSELY POPULAR MINISTRY OF TRUTH TELEVISION PROGRAM--THE MOST POPULAR SHOW OF ITS KIND.
RECENTLY, MR. CLARK HAS MOVED INTO A NEW ARENA--POLITICS--HE'S COME TO TINSEL TOWN FOR THE ANNUAL CRUSADE FESTIVAL WHERE HE'S EXPECTED TO ANNOUNCE HIS CANDIDACY FOR PRESIDENT. WE'LL DO OUR BEST TO GET HIM TO CONFIRM THAT RUMOR RIGHT NOW.
WELCOME, CARTER.
THANK YOU, JANET--IT'S A PLEASURE TO BE HERE.
SO TELL ME, HOW DOES A YOUNG TELE-VANGILIST BECOME A VIABLE CONTENDER FOR THE PRESIDENCY?
WELL, NOT THAT YOUNG, JANET--I AM ELIGIBLE TO RUN, IF YOU GET MY MEANING.

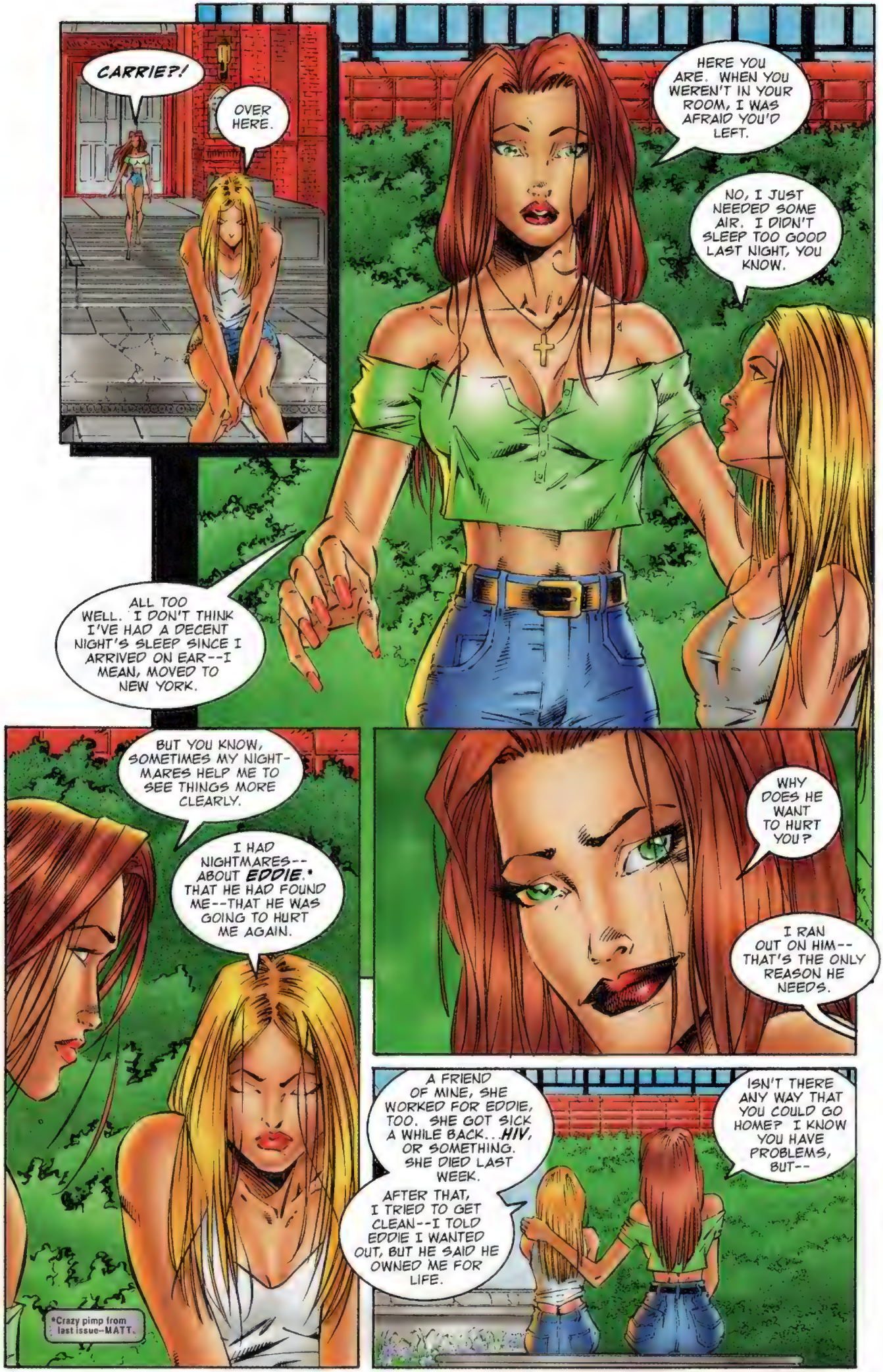
JUST LOOK AT HOW SHE'S FAWIN' OVER 'IM. AH'M TELLIN' YA, EVITZ, CARTA'S GONNA HAVE EVERY HOUSEWIFE AND LONELY HEART IN AMERICA LININ' UP TA VOTE FOR 'IM. HE'S A SHOE IN FOR '96.
I GOT PHONES RINGING IN HERE--SOME DUMB ASS SMOKING A CIGAR--I LOST MY GLOVES--WHY DID I EVER BECOME A DIRECTOR?!
BUT WE HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO, GRAHAM.
IMBECILE.
RING! RING!
EVITZ.
BOSS, IT'S VICTOR. I'M AT ST. AMBROSE--NOTHING'S GOING ON SO FAR.
NO, SHE'S NOT THAT GOOD. STAY WITH HER, VICTOR--I WANT REGULAR REPORTS.
YOU'RE SURE SHE'S STILL IN THERE?
I'VE GOT GUYS ALL OVER THE PLACE, I'M TELLING YOU, AVENGELYNE HASN'T LEFT SINCE SHE CAME BACK LAST NIGHT WITH THE KID. MAYBE SHE KNOWS WE'RE ON TO HER.
YOU'RE THE MAN. LATER.
NO, I DON'T BELIEVE I CATER TO JUST ONE DEMOGRAPHIC. I REPRESENT PEOPLE OF ALL RACES WHO ARE SICK AND TIRED OF THE RAMPANT IMMORALITY THAT HAS INFECTED AMERICA.
SO YOU ATTRIBUTE SOCIAL PROBLEMS, SUCH AS CRIME AND UNEMPLOYMENT, TO THE EROSION OF BASIC FAMILY VALUES?
L.A.
IT MAY SOUND OVERLY SIMPLISTIC, BUT YES I DO.
THE FAMILY IS DYSFUNCTIONAL IN AMERICA--DYSFUNCTIONAL CHILDREN GROW UP TO BECOME DYSFUNCTIONAL PARENTS--IT'S AN ENDLESS CYCLE.

WHETHER I RUN FOR PRESIDENT OR NOT, ONE OF MY PRIMARY GOALS IS THE RESTORATION OF THE AMERICAN FAMILY UNIT.
THAT'S A TALL ORDER.
IF ANYONE CAN DO IT, IT'S HIM. HE HELPED NEGOTIATE A CEASE FIRE AMONG THE L.A. GANGS LAST YEAR. THERE'S JUST SOMETHING ABOUT HIM THAT PEOPLE RESPOND TO--IT'S AN ENVIABLE QUALITY.
I'M AFRAID THAT'S ALL THE TIME WE HAVE. CARTER CLARK WILL BE SPEAKING THIS WEEKEND AT THE ANNUAL CRUSADE FESTIVAL--BE SURE TO STOP BY AND SAY HELLO.
HAVE A GOOD DAY, L.A.
AVENGELYNE, MAYBE WE SHOULD CHECK ON CARRIE AND SEE IF SHE'S AWAKE YET.
I WAS JUST THINKING THE SAME THING, DAVID. AFTER LAST NIGHT, I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF SHE WAS STILL ASLEEP.

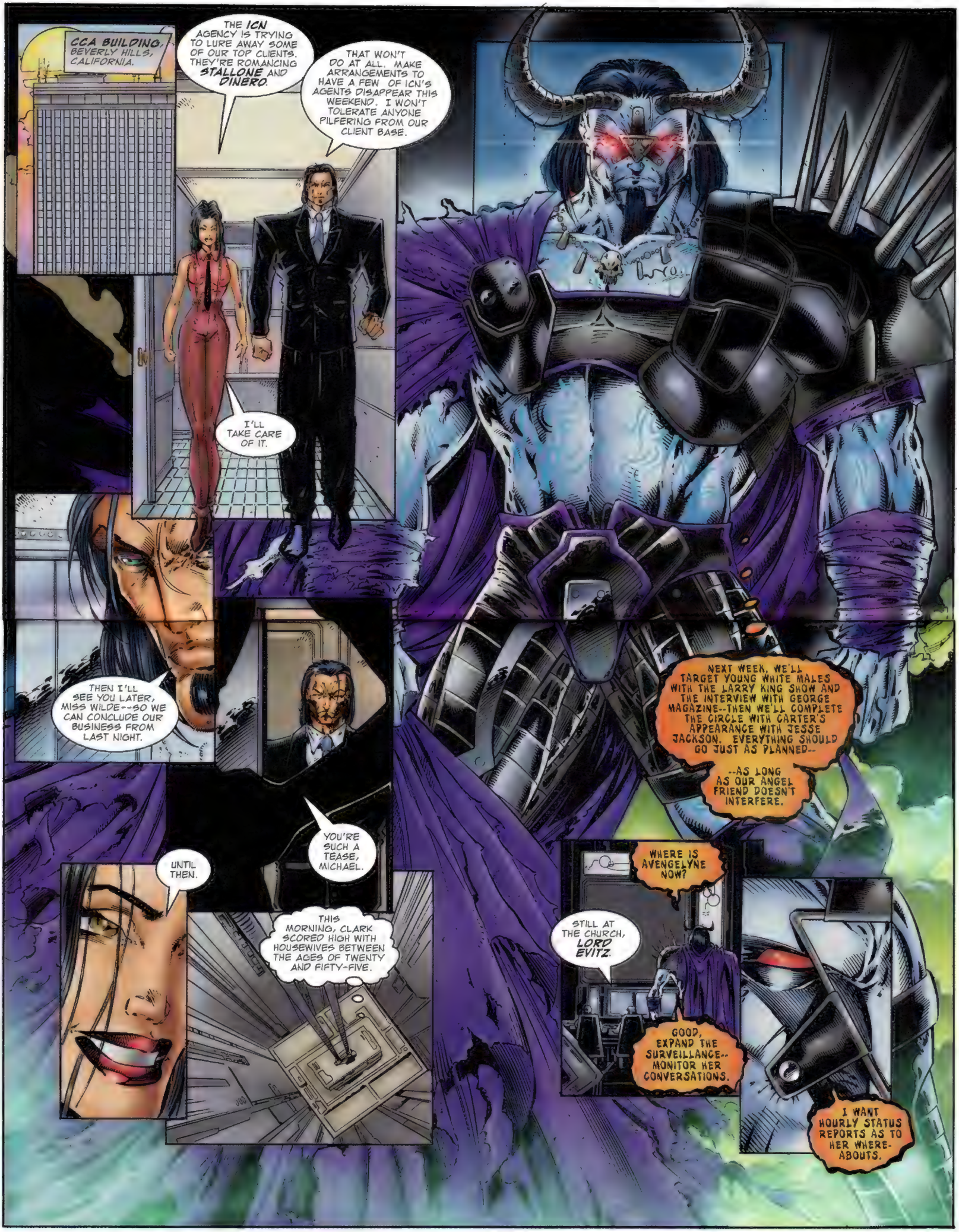
YOU WANT ME TO GO WITH YOU?
SHE SEEMS MORE COMFORTABLE WITH ME, PETER. MAYBE I SHOULD TALK TO HER ALONE.
ALL RIGHT, THEN--GOOD LUCK.

PETER, I'M WORRIED ABOUT AVENGELYNE.
WHY?
I KNOW SHE'S ONLY TRYING TO HELP CARRIE, BUT THESE KIDS ARE UNPREDICTABLE--JUST WHEN YOU THINK YOU'VE GOT THEM ON THE RIGHT TRACK, THEY END UP BACK ON THE STREET.

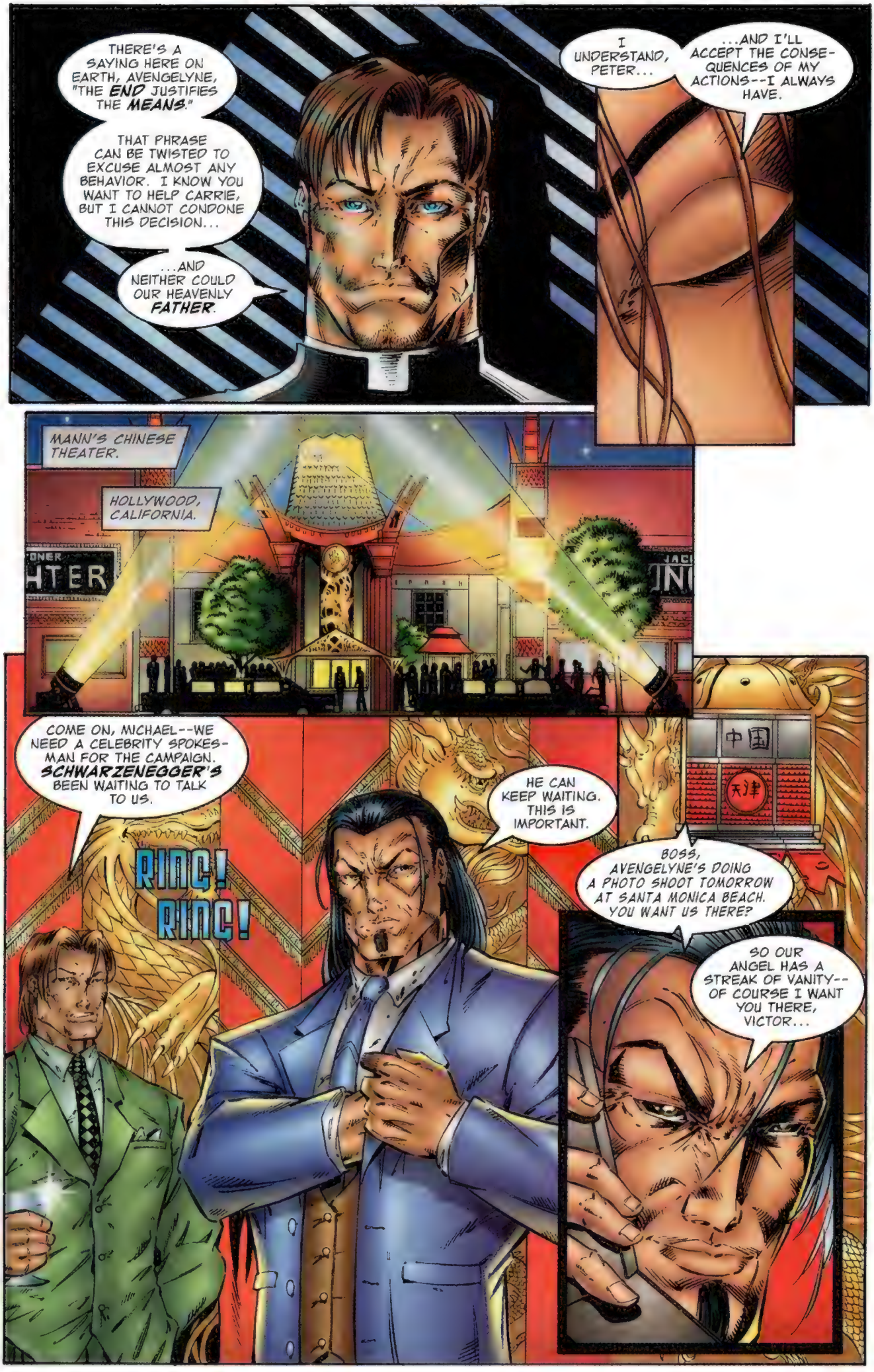

IF AVENGELYNE GETS TOO EMOTIONALLY INVOLVED, SHE MAY END UP GETTING HURT.
YOU'RE RIGHT, DAVID. AVENGELYNE'S BEEN SO VULNERABLE SINCE SHE...LEFT HOME. ANOTHER DISAPPOINTMENT IS THE LAST THING SHE NEEDS RIGHT NOW.


CARRIE?!
OVER HERE.
HERE YOU ARE. WHEN YOU WEREN'T IN YOUR ROOM, I WAS AFRAID YOU'D LEFT.
NO, I JUST NEEDED SOME AIR. I DIDN'T SLEEP TOO GOOD LAST NIGHT, YOU KNOW.
ALL TOO WELL. I DON'T THINK I'VE HAD A DECENT NIGHT'S SLEEP SINCE I ARRIVED ON EAR--I MEAN, MOVED TO NEW YORK.
BUT YOU KNOW, SOMETIMES MY NIGHT-MARES HELP ME TO SEE THINGS MORE CLEARLY.
I HAD NIGHTMARES-- ABOUT EDDIE.* THAT HE HAD FOUND ME--THAT HE WAS GOING TO HURT ME AGAIN.
*Crazy pimp from last issue--MATT.
WHY DOES HE WANT TO HURT YOU?
I RAN OUT ON HIM-- THAT'S THE ONLY REASON HE NEEDS.
A FRIEND OF MINE, SHE WORKED FOR EDDIE, TOO. SHE GOT SICK A WHILE BACK...HIV, OR SOMETHING. SHE DIED LAST WEEK.
AFTER THAT, I TRIED TO GET CLEAN--I TOLD EDDIE I WANTED OUT, BUT HE SAID HE OWNED ME FOR LIFE.
ISN'T THERE ANY WAY THAT YOU COULD GO HOME? I KNOW YOU HAVE PROBLEMS, BUT--

PROBLEMS?
I'VE GOT A LOT WORSE THAN PROBLEMS.
YOU CAN TELL ME, CARRIE--NO MATTER WHAT IT IS--I'LL LISTEN.
IT'S KINDA HARD TO TALK ABOUT.
IT'S MY DAD...
HE'S...HE'S A M-MONSTER, AVENGELYNE...
...HE WON'T LEAVE ME ALONE.
I TRIED EVERYTHING, BUT THERE WAS NO WAY TO MAKE HIM STOP. HE JUST KEPT COMING BACK TO MY ROOM... EVERY NIGHT.
HE J-JUST WOULDN'T STOP
OH, CARRIE, I...
I-I'M SO SORRY.
AS LONG AS I'M HERE, NO ONE WILL EVER HARM YOU AGAIN.
PROMISE.
I PROMISE.

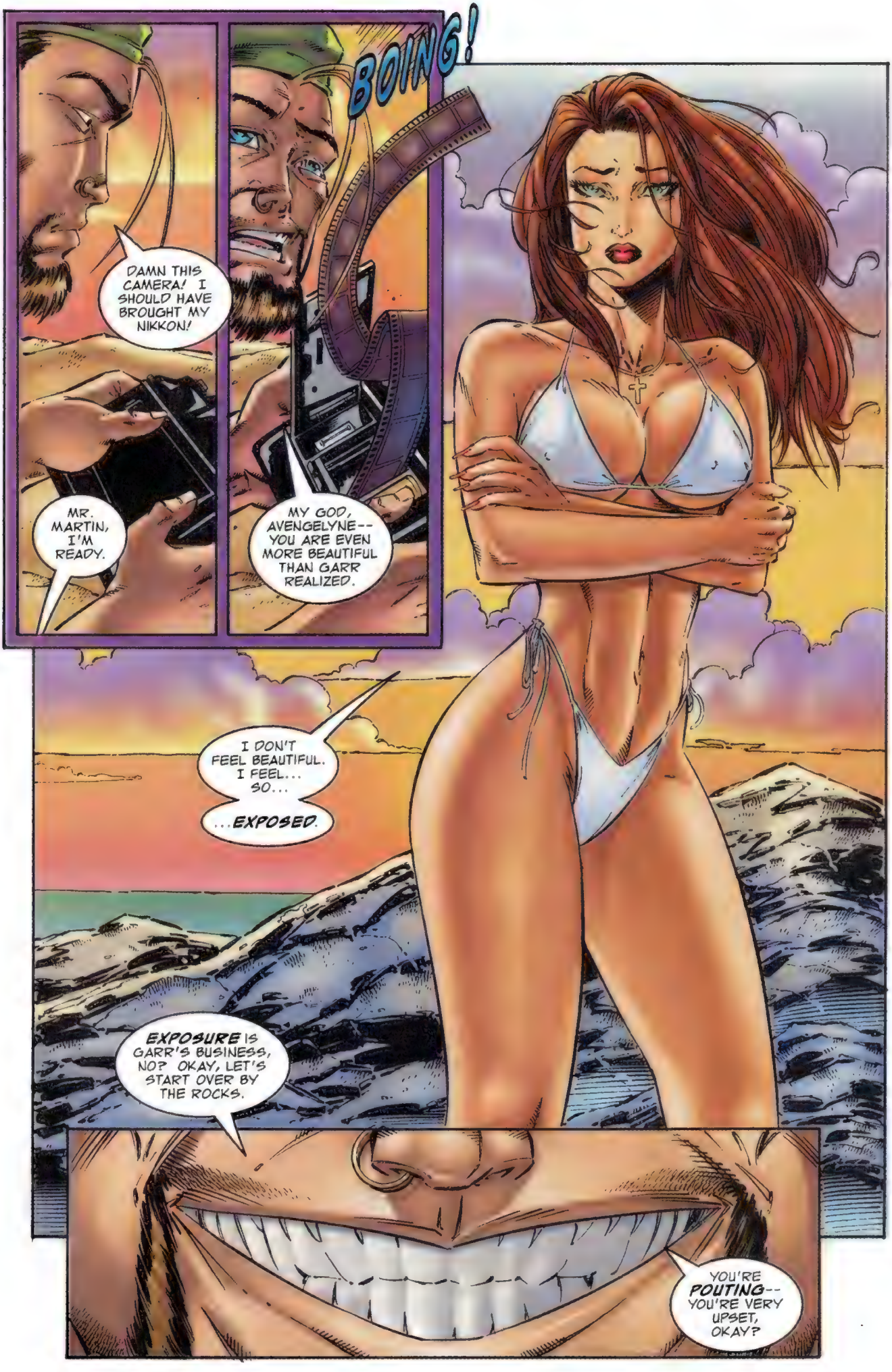

CCA BUILDING, BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA.
THE ICN AGENCY IS TRYING TO LURE AWAY SOME OF OUR TOP CLIENTS. THEY'RE ROMANCING STALLONE AND DINERO.
THAT WON'T DO AT ALL. MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO HAVE A FEW OF ICN'S AGENTS DISAPPEAR THIS WEEKEND. I WON'T TOLERATE ANYONE PILFERING FROM OUR CLIENT BASE.
I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT.
THEN I'LL SEE YOU LATER, MISS WILDE--SO WE CAN CONCLUDE OUR BUSINESS FROM LAST NIGHT.
YOU'RE SUCH A TEASE, MICHAEL.
UNTIL THEN.
THIS MORNING, CLARK SCORED HIGH WITH HOUSEWIVES BETWEEN THE AGES OF TWENTY AND FIFTY-FIVE.
NEXT WEEK, WE'LL TARGET YOUNG WHITE MALES WITH THE LARRY KING SHOW AND THE INTERVIEW WITH GEORGE MAGAZINE--THEN WE'LL COMPLETE THE CIRCLE WITH CARTER'S APPEARANCE WITH JESSE JACKSON. EVERYTHING SHOULD GO JUST AS PLANNED--
--AS LONG AS OUR ANGEL FRIEND DOESN'T INTERFERE.
WHERE IS AVENGELYNE NOW?
STILL AT THE CHURCH, LORD EVITZ.
GOOD, EXPAND THE SURVEILLANCE--MONITOR HER CONVERSATIONS.
I WANT HOURLY STATUS REPORTS AS TO HER WHEREABOUTS.

HOW...?
HOW AM I GOING TO TELL HIM?
AVENGELYNE, DAVID SAID YOU WANTED ME.
YES, PETER--THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO TELL YOU.
I'VE DECIDED...TO ACCEPT THE PHOTOGRAPHER'S OFFER.
-Sigh-
WE'VE DISCUSSED THIS ALREADY, AVENGELYNE.
THEY'RE JUST PICTURES, PETER. THINK OF THE GOOD I CAN DO WITH THE MONEY.
YOU'RE AN ANGEL--YOU SHOULDN'T ALLOW MONEY TO INFLUENCE YOU. REMEMBER, "WHAT DOES A MAN PROFIT IF HE SHOULD GAIN THE WHOLE WORLD AND LOSE HIS OWN SOUL."
CARRIE CAN USE IT TO GET AWAY FROM EDDIE AND BUILD A NEW LIFE FOR HERSELF.


THERE'S A SAYING HERE ON EARTH, AVENGELYNE, "THE END JUSTIFIES THE MEANS."
THAT PHRASE CAN BE TWISTED TO EXCUSE ALMOST ANY BEHAVIOR. I KNOW YOU WANT TO HELP CARRIE, BUT I CANNOT CONDONE THIS DECISION...
...AND NEITHER COULD OUR HEAVENLY FATHER.
I UNDERSTAND, PETER...
...AND I'LL ACCEPT THE CONSE-QUENCES OF MY ACTIONS--I ALWAYS HAVE.
MANN'S CHINESE THEATER.
HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA.
COME ON, MICHAEL--WE NEED A CELEBRITY SPOKES-MAN FOR THE CAMPAIGN. SCHWARZENEGGER'S BEEN WAITING TO TALK TO US.
RING! RING!
HE CAN KEEP WAITING. THIS IS IMPORTANT.
BOSS, AVENGELYNE'S DOING A PHOTO SHOOT TOMORROW AT SANTA MONICA BEACH. YOU WANT US THERE?
SO OUR ANGEL HAS A STREAK OF VANITY--OF COURSE I WANT YOU THERE, VICTOR...

"...WE WOULDN'T MISS THIS FOR THE WORLD."
THE NEXT DAY.
GARR?
OVER HERE, AVENGELYNE.
YOU'RE ON TIME, YES. THAT'S VERY GOOD--YOU MUST BE ON TIME IF YOU WANT TO GET ANYWHERE IN THIS BUSINESS--REMEMBER WHAT GARR TELLS YOU.
OKAY, TIME TO "SUIT UP."
YOU WANT ME TO WEAR THIS?!
BUT, OF COURSE. I'M NOT PAYING YOU FIFTY GRAND TO SHOOT--HOW YOU SAY--"KODAK MOMENTS."
CHANGE BEHIND THOSE ROCKS--I'LL LOAD THE CAMERA, AND HURRY--WE'LL BE RUNNING AFTER THE SUN ALL DAY, NO?

MEANWHILE...
JUST THINK OF IT, MY FRIENDS, TOMORROW THIS STADIUM WILL BE FILLED TO CAPACITY.
PEOPLE FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE--DOCTORS, LAWYERS, HOUSEWIVES, CHILDREN--SEVENTY THOUSAND OF THEM; ALL HERE TO WITNESS CARTER CLARK ANNOUNCE HIS BID FOR THE PRESIDENCY.
AN' THEY CALL ME A MEGALOMANIAC.
YEAH, AN' IF THIS THANG LIVES UP TA THE HYPE, WE SHOULD HAVE MEDIA FROM ALL OVER THE DAMN GLOBE HERE BY SATURDAY. ALL OF 'IM WITH THEIR CAMERAS POINTED RIGHT AT CARTA.
I UNDERSTAND CNN AND BNN WILL BE CARRYING MY ADDRESS LIVE, AND THEY'LL EVEN BE SHOWING IT ON THE MONITOR IN TIMES SQUARE.
I'M GOING TO USE EVITZ UNTIL MY FACE IS IN EVERY NEWSPAPER AND ON EVERY TV IN AMERICA.
INDEED THEY WILL, CARTER.
GENTLEMEN, THIS YEAR'S CRUSADE FESTIVAL WILL BE AN EVENT UNLIKE ANY BEFORE IN THE HISTORY OF RELIGION OR POLITICS--THAT I PROMISE YOU.
AND WHEN IT'S OVER I'LL BE ONE STEP CLOSER TO HAVING A PUPPET IN THE WHITE HOUSE.
NOW, IF YOU'LL FORGIVE ME, I HAVE A PHOTO SHOOT TO ATTEND.


DAMN THIS CAMERA! I SHOULD HAVE BROUGHT MY NIKKON!
MR. MARTIN, I'M READY.
BOING!
MY GOD, AVENGELYNE-- YOU ARE EVEN MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN GARR REALIZED.
I DON'T FEEL BEAUTIFUL. I FEEL... SO...
...EXPOSED.
EXPOSURE IS GARR'S BUSINESS, NO? OKAY, LET'S START OVER BY THE ROCKS.
YOU'RE POUTING-- YOU'RE VERY UPSET, OKAY?

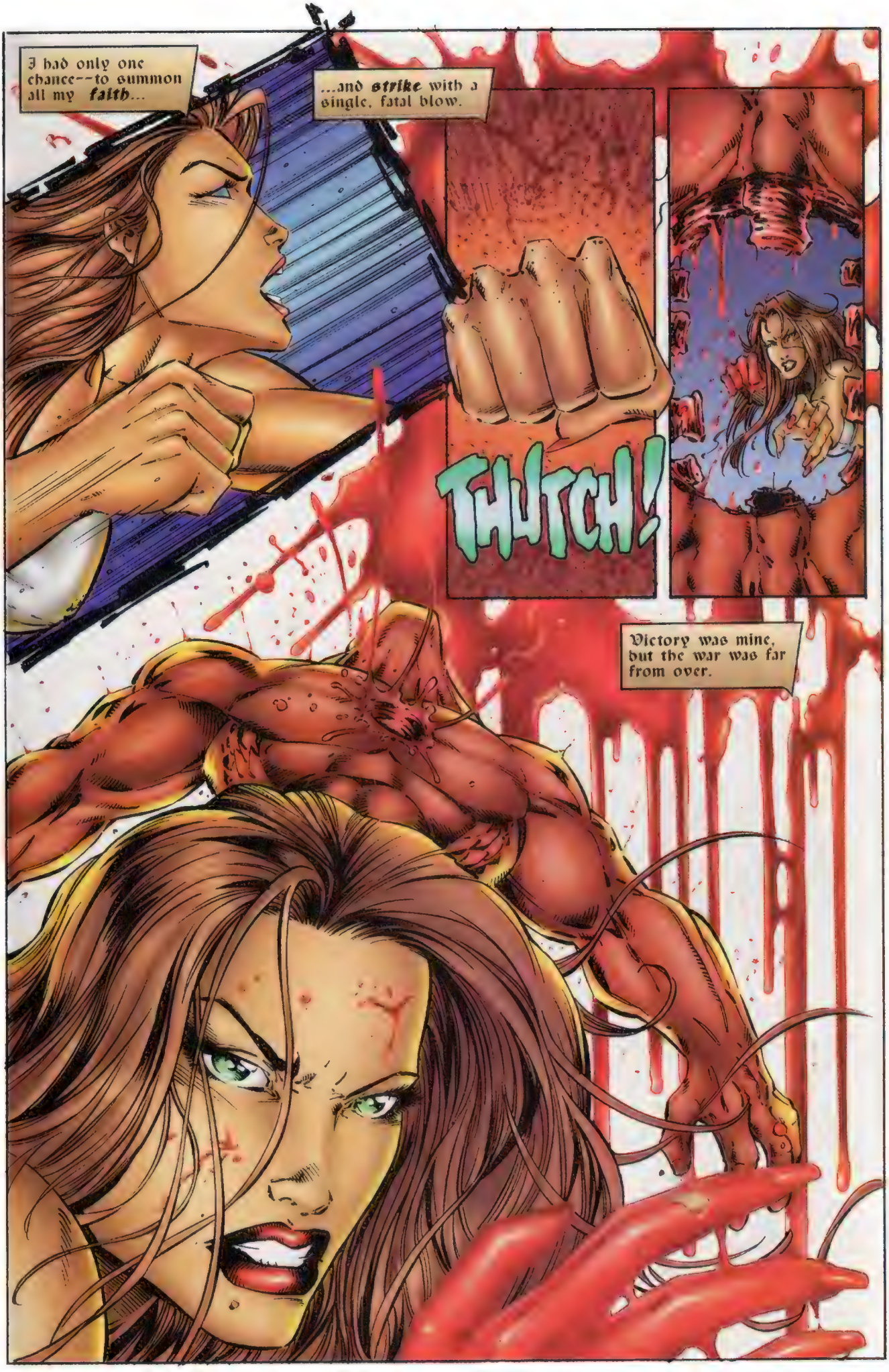
OKAY, THAT'S GOOD. LOOSEN UP--WE'RE JUST HAVING FUN!
OH, THAT'S IT! SHOW ME THAT FACE--SHOW ME THAT VIRGIN FACE.
CLICK!
NO, YOU'RE HAPPY--YOU LOVE GARR, NO?!
CLICK!
CLICK! CLICK!
CLICK!
THAT'S IT, YOU LOVE ME!
MORE UPSET, YOU'RE MAD--YOU'RE VERY MAD.
CLICK!
GARR IS GOING TO MAKE YOU FAMOUS. EVERY MAN IN THE WORLD IS GOING TO KNOW YOUR NAME WHEN THESE PHOTOS COME OUT!*
THEY'RE ALL GOING TO WANT YOU, BUT NONE OF THEM WILL EVER HAVE YOU--WILL THEY, AVENGELYNE? THAT'S IT--THAT'S IT!
*As seen in the Avengelyne Swimsuit Book!

THAT WAS GOOD--FOR A BEGINNER, YOU KNOW. LET ME RELOAD THEN WE'LL TAKE SOME MORE.
DID I REALLY DO OKAY?
OKAY?! YOU'RE GOING TO BE ON THE COVER OF THE NEXT SPORTS ILLUSTRATED SWIMSUIT ISSUE, OR MY NAME ISN'T--
GARR, BEHIND YOU!
WHAT IS IT? POLICE OR SOMETHING? I HAVE ALL THE PROPER PERMITS.
I KNEW IT! I KNEW B'LIALE WOULD FOLLOW ME OUT HERE!
I'LL KEEP THAT IN MIND!
THAK!

I couldn't afford a moment's hesitation.
The demons were from a warrior cadre--trained by the Dragon to war against the angels.
I was alone, without even the sword of the spirit to protect me.
All I had were my bare hands--
--and the fury of the righteous.
But I wasn't sure that was going to be enough...
THOOM!

...to battle Pandemonium's fiercest brood.
The only sound I could hear above the roaring of the waves was my own heartbeat. The beating of the heart is something I'll never get used to.
To me, it is a foreign sound--
--a frightening reminder of my newfound mortality.
WHAP!
AAARGHH!

R-RELEASE ME AT ONCE, ANGEL!
VERY WELL, DEMON.
AS YOU WISH!
ANGEL!
KRAK!
NOW LET'S SEE IF YOU CAN DO THAT TO ME!


I had only one chance--to summon all my *faith*...
...and *strike* with a single, fatal blow.
THUTCH!
Victory was mine, but the war was far from over.

ZEAL FOR GOD'S LAW AWAKENS RIGHTEOUS ANGER AGAINST THOSE WHO REJECT IT.
PSALM 119: 53
ANGEL, YOU FIGHT FOR A GOD WHO HAS LEFT YOU FOR DEAD!
NO, IT IS FIENDS LIKE YOU WHO ARE THE BETRAYERS--
NOT THE HEAVENLY FATHER!
HUH?!

THE BODIES ARE ALMOST DISSOLVED--I'VE GOT TO CALL PETER AND WARN--
CLAP! CLAP!
HUH?!
WHO ARE YOU?!
THE NAME IS EVITZ. LORD EVITZ.
AND YOU ARE THE LEGENDARY AVENGELYNE. AT LEAST MY BRETHREN DIDN'T EXAGGERATE YOUR BEAUTY.
BUT SUCH VANITY IS UNBECOMING FOR AN ANGEL. A FEW DAYS IN CALIFORNIA AND YOU'RE ALREADY POSING HALF NAKED FOR A PERFECT STRANGER.
ENOUGH! YOU DARE TO STAND IN JUDGMENT OF ME-- WHEN YOU ARE NOTHING MORE THAN ONE OF B'LIALE'S MINIONS!

HOW AMUSING.
MY DEAR, I AM A DEMON LORD POSSESSING POWER THE LIKES OF WHICH B'LIALE ONLY DREAMT OF. THOUGH HIS RECENT ESCAPE FROM PURGATORY WAS IMPRESSIVE*, I HAVE ALWAYS FOUND HIM TO BE SOMEWHAT...INEFFECTUAL. HIS HANDLING OF YOU IS A PRIME EXAMPLE.
REST ASSURED, I WILL NOT REPEAT HIS MISTAKE.
BY THE WAY, MY COMPLIMENTS ON YOUR PERFORMANCE JUST NOW. YOU PROVED TO ME THAT YOU ARE A SERIOUS THREAT TO OUR KIND--DESPITE THE ABSENCE OF YOUR ANGELIC GIFTS.
*As chronicled in ASYLUM #1--Matt.
IT SEEMS SUCH A WASTE OF TALENT TO DESTROY YOU. WERE YOU TO JOIN ME YOU WOULD FIND ME TO BE A MOST GENEROUS SPONSOR--AND I ASK FOR VERY LITTLE IN RETURN.
I WANT NOTHING FROM YOU.
DON'T BE SO HASTY.
THE NEXT TIME WE MEET, YOUR LIFE ON THIS PLANET WILL END, AND THERE'S NO GUARANTEE THAT GOD WILL TAKE YOU BACK.
THINK ABOUT THAT BEFORE YOU CHOOSE YOUR PATH.
UHH... AVENGELYNE? WHO HIT GARR ON THE HEAD?
EVITZ?
IS THE ENTIRE EARTH POSSESSED OF DEVILS? IS THERE NO PLACE I CAN GO TO ESCAPE THEM?
TO BE CONTINUED!

AVENGELYNE

CHAPTER 6

THIS IS DAGNEY HOLT REPORTING FOR E! ENTERTAINMENT NETWORK. I'M AT ANAHEIM STADIUM WHERE THIS YEAR'S CRUSADE FESTIVAL IS IN FULL SWING.
THAT'S RIGHT, I SAID THE CRUSADE FESTIVAL. THE ANNUAL RELIGIOUS EVENT HAS BECOME SOMETHING OF AN ENTERTAINMENT EVENT THIS YEAR BECAUSE OF CARTER CLARK--THE YOUNG TELEVANGILIST WHO IS THE NEW DARLING OF WASHINGTON D.C. AND HOLLYWOOD.
PROBABLY MY MOST FAMOUS LINE IS, "I'LL BE BACK." BUT NOW THE REPUBLICANS ARE SAYING, "WE'LL BE BACK"--IN THE WHITE HOUSE THAT IS. AND IT'S ALL THANKS TO CARTER CLARK.
AH'M GRAHAM FALLWELL--CARTA'S MANAGER. NOW, IF AND WHEN CARTA'S PRESIDENT, HE'S GONNA TAKE A HOSE TA ALL THE FILTH IN AMERICA AND WASH IT CLEAN--YA GOT MY PERSONAL GUARANTEE ON THAT.
RELIGION AND POLITICS AREN'T USUALLY YOUR ARENAS, MR. EVITZ. WHY DID YOU GET INVOLVED WITH CARTER CLARK?
CARTER HAS A VISION OF THE FUTURE WHICH I SHARE. IF I DIDN'T BELIEVE IN HIM, I COULDN'T REPRESENT HIM, DESPITE THE FINANCIAL REWARDS.
CARTER AND I ARE KINDRED SPIRITS.
AND THERE YOU HAVE IT, FROM SUPER-STARS TO SUPERAGENTS, CARTER CLARK HAS TAKEN TINSEL TOWN BY STORM. WHILE CLARK HAS YET TO OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCE HIS CANDIDACY, HE'S EXPECTED TO FORMERLY ENTER THE PRESIDENTIAL RACE TONIGHT DURING HIS ADDRESS TO THE RECORD CROWD OF OVER 100,000.

YOU'VE DONE AN EXCELLENT JOB PROMOTING THIS YEAR'S CRUSADE FESTIVAL, MR. MUREN. I'M SURE THE EVENT ORGANIZERS ARE PLEASED.
HONESTLY, FATHER ANDERSON, THANKS TO CARTER CLARK--THIS EVENT PROMOTED ITSELF.
I JUST HOPE THAT THE PEOPLE AREN'T SO ENAMORED WITH CLARK THAT THEY'VE FORGOTTEN WHO WE'RE REALLY HERE TO PRAISE--
OUR LORD AND SAVIOR.
I HOPE SO TOO, PETER.
OH, BROTHER.
AVENGELYNE, DO I REALLY HAVE TO DO THIS?
CARRIE, YOU PROMISED. JUST LISTEN TO WHAT THE SPEAKERS ARE SAYING--THAT'S ALL I ASK. CAN YOU DO THAT FOR ME?
AVENGELYNE, IT'S TIME. DAVID'S GOING TO INTRODUCE US TO CARTER CLARK.
YOU CERTAINLY DID THE FIRST TIME WE MET.
VERY FUNNY.
I'M SO NERVOUS, PETER--I HOPE I MAKE A GOOD IMPRESSION.
ALL RIGHT, BUT NO PROMISES.
AS CHRONICLED IN THE NOW INFAMOUS AVENGELYNE #1--MATT.

SHORTLY...
THERE YA ARE, FATHER--AH'M GLAD YOU COULD MAKE IT. CARTA, THIS IS FATHER DAVID ANDERSON OF ST. AMBROSE, AND FATHER PETER CLIFTON OF ST. AUGUSTINE IN NEW YORK. THESE TWO HAVE BEEN DOIN' A LOT OF FINE WORK--SAVIN' A LOT OF YOUNG FOLK FROM THE STREETS.
MR. CLARK--THANK YOU FOR MAKING THE ANNUAL HARVEST SO SUCCESSFUL.
IN FACT, CARTA, THIS IS ONE OF THE YOUNG LADIES FATHER CLIFTON RESCUED--AVENGELYNE.
A PLEASURE, MISS.
YOUR WORK HAS BEEN A GREAT INSPIRATION TO ME, MR. CLARK.
SIMPLY THE WORK OF GOD.
I'M CARTER'S AGENT, MICHAEL EVITZ.
EVITZ?! LORD EVITZ?!
HE'S CARTER CLARK'S AGENT?!
EXCUSE ME, CARTER, I DIDN'T REALIZE YOU WERE TAKING A MEETING.
WONDERFUL FESTIVAL WE'RE HAVING, WOULDN'T YOU AGREE?
I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING--WARN CARTER ABOUT EVITZ. I MUST CONVINCE HIM--BEFORE EVITZ'S DEMONIC INFLUENCE POISONS CARTER'S SOUL.

LATER...AT ONE OF THE STADIUM'S MOBILE TRAILERS.
ARE YOU SURE IT WAS HIM?
YOU SAID YOU ONLY SAW HIM FOR A MINUTE OR TWO.
TRUST ME, PETER, IT WAS HIM. BUT AT THE BEACH* HE DIDN'T CALL HIMSELF MICHAEL EVITZ--HE CALLED HIMSELF LORD EVITZ. HE'S A DEMON LORD, PETER--AND HE WANTS CARTER'S SOUL.
*In Avengelyne Power #2--Matt
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO? CARTER WILL NEVER BELIEVE THIS, HE'LL TRY TO HAVE US COMMITTED.
EVITZ HAS HIM UNDERNEATH THE STADIUM--WAITING IN THE LOCKER ROOMS UNTIL HE COMES UP TO GIVE HIS SPEECH.
TALKING WITH CLARK IS GOING TO BE THE DIFFICULT PART.

AVENGELYNE, THIS ISN'T PANDEMONIUM--THERE ARE A HUNDRED THOUSAND INNOCENT PEOPLE HERE. YOU CAN'T JUST CAN'T TURN THIS STADIUM INTO A WAR ZONE.
BUT CARTER'S SOUL IS HANGING IN THE BALANCE, PETER--AND NOT JUST HIM, PERHAPS THE ENTIRE NATION. IMAGINE IF EVITZ CORRUPTS CARTER, AND THEN HE SUCCEEDS AT BECOMING PRESIDENT.
=Sigh= WHAT'S YOUR PLAN?
TO FIND CARTER--TO SAVE HIM BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.
YOU CAN'T GO DOWN THERE BY YOURSELF.
I MUST. IF WE'RE BOTH MISSING, DAVID WILL COME LOOKING FOR US AND EVITZ MIGHT BE ALERTED. I'M SORRY, PETER, BUT THIS TIME I MUST BE ALONE.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT ALL THIS DEMON AND ANGEL CRAP IS ABOUT, BUT I'M STICKING WITH AVENGELYNE--IN CASE SHE NEEDS ME.

AN HOUR LATER.
HOME
TEAM
HEY, WHAT'S THE STORY WITH THE PRIEST?
DON'T ASK ME.
WHAT DO YOU WANT... FATHER?
I HAVE A MESSAGE FOR MR. CLARK. IT'S VERY URGENT.
ORDERS ARE NO ONE GOES DOWN THERE.
MAYBE YOU SHOULD TELL HER.
WHO?
SLAM!
WELL DONE, PETER.
I MAY HAVE LOST MY ANGELIC POWERS, BUT MY STRENGTH IS STILL FAR SUPERIOR TO THAT OF A NORMAL HUMAN.
THEY'LL BE UNCONSCIOUS FOR QUITE SOME TIME.
SO THAT'S HOW SHE BEAT THE *$% OUT OF EDDIE*!
*Avengelyne Power #1--Matt.
I'D BETTER GET BACK BEFORE DAVID NOTICES I'M GONE.
GOOD LUCK, AVENGELYNE-- MAY GOD PROTECT YOU.

RING!
THIS IS EVITZ--WHAT IS IT?
BOSS, IT'S VICTOR. AVENGELYNE JUST TOOK OUT THE GUARDS AT THE ENTRANCE, SHE'S COMING YOUR WAY--ALONE.
EXCELLENT.
HAVE SOME FUN WITH HER, VICTOR--BUT BRING HER TO ME ALIVE.
YOU GOT IT.
I remember feeling relieved that Peter wasn't with me.
Part of me wanted him above, where he would be safe, but another part of me was glad to be on the hunt alone.
As I ventured into the depths of the stadium it was not unlike the countless times I had invaded Pandemonium as a servant of the Lord of Hosts.
But in that time, I had more than the sword of the spirit.
I had wings--living wings.
And even if my flesh was scored by a demon's blade, it was replenished instantly--by a power far greater than the dragon's.

But the devil's brood were not without their abilities.
For instead of water, the shower before me gushed with blood.
demon blood.
It's rank stench was unmistakable.
Evitz had spawned a new breed of devil.
The likes of which I had never before encountered.
HEARD ABOUT WHAT YOU DID AT THE BEACH, ANGEL!
GASP

THOSE DEMONS YOU MASSACRED WERE OF MY WARRIOR CADRE--OUR BLOODLINES WERE THE SAME!
KRAK!
SLAM!
YOU KILLED MY BROTHERS--AND FOR THAT I'M GOING TO DO SOME REAL NASTY THINGS TO YOU.
He was powerful--a beast whose body was both tangible and fluid.
WHK!
I had to attack while he was still tangible.
THAT THE BEST YOU GOT, ANGEL?!

I EXPECTED BETTER FROM THE LEGENDARY AVENGELYNE!
VERY WELL, FIEND!
I'LL TRY NOT TO DISAPPOINT YOU FURTHER!
YOU ARE PRETTY WHEN YOU'RE ANGRY! COME ON, JUST GIVE ME ONE LITTLE TASTE OF THAT SWEET ANGEL FLESH!
SPLAT
He would taste nothing ever again.
Save the spout from which he came.

THERE'S GRAHAM AND CARTER, BUT NO SIGN OF EVITZ.
I CAN'T WAIT. WITH THIS MANY DEMONS IN THE AREA, IT'S ONLY A QUESTION OF TIME BEFORE THEY FIND ME. I'VE GOT TO TRY TO CONVINCE CARTER TO COME WITH ME.
MR. CLARK-- MR. FALLWELL, I MUST SPEAK WITH YOU!
WHAT THE HELL?!
AVENGELYNE?!
GENTLEMAN, WHAT I'M ABOUT TO TELL YOU IS GOING TO SOUND... INSANE, BUT YOU HAVE TO BELIEVE THAT I'M TELLING YOU THE TRUTH-- YOUR LIVES DEPEND ON IT.
OH, AN' WHAT EXACTLY IS HE, MISSY--
THE DEVIL OR SOMETHIN'?!
LOOK AT HER, GRAHAM-- YOU'D THINK SHE'S NEVER SEEN A HOLY MAN BEFORE.
MR. EVITZ-- HE'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK HE IS.
"THE WICKED OFTEN CLOTHE THEMSELVES IN THE ROBES OF THE RIGHTEOUS."

NO... N-NO--IT CAN'T BE--
NOT YOU TOO?!
SMAK!
POOR DELUDED GIRL--SHE ACTUALLY THOUGHT YOU WERE HUMANITY'S SALVATION.
SHORTLY...
AS YOU SEE, AVENGELYNE, WE EXIST IN ALL WALKS OF LIFE. DOCTORS, ACTORS, AGENTS, POLITICIANS--MY KIND IS EVERYWHERE. LURKING IN THE SHADOWS--WAITING--PLANNING...DECEIVING.
OUR SOCIETY HERE ON EARTH IS NOT SO UNLIKE THE WORLD OF MORTALS. WE FIGHT AMONGST OURSELVES, WE AMASS WEALTH--EVEN FAME.
BUT WE HAVE SOMETHING THAT HUMANS CAN NEVER HAVE... TRUE POWER.
YOU CAN SHARE IN THIS POWER, AVENGELYNE. ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS FORSAKE THE ONE WHO HAS FORSAKEN YOU. BID GOD FAREWELL AND YOU WILL KNOW WHAT REAL POWER IS.
BUT CORRUPTING ME--THAT WOULD VALIDATE YOUR PATHETIC EXISTENCE.
INTERESTING THEORY.
YOU WANT ME, EVITZ, FOR THE SAME REASONS B'LIALE WANTED ME. YOU'RE AFRAID OF ME--EVEN AS I AM NOW. I MAY HAVE FALLEN FROM FATHER'S GRACE, BUT IN YOUR HEART YOU KNOW THAT I AM THE STRONGER. DESTROYING ME WOULD MEAN NOTHING TO YOU.
THOUGH I WOULD LIKE TO CONTINUE WITH THIS DISCUSSION, WE HAVE A NATION TO SEDUCE, BUT I WILL BE BACK FOR YOU.

THIRTY MINUTES LATER.
CLAP! CLAP!
CHEER!
...AND THAT IS WHY I HAVE DECIDED THAT IT IS TIME FOR A CHANGE IN AMERICA, AND WISH TO OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCE MY CANDIDACY FOR PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES!
THERE IT IS--IT'S OFFICIAL. I'M SURPRISED AVENGELYNE ISN'T HERE TO SEE THIS.
SHE WENT TO GO FIND CARRIE--I'M SURE THEY HEARD IT.
SOMETHING'S WRONG, AVENGELYNE SHOULD BE BACK BY NOW.
SIMULTANEOUSLY...
IT'S NOT TOO LATE FOR REDEMPTION.
IF YOU HELP ME, YOU CAN BE SAVED.
IF YOU DON'T SHUT UP, BITCH, I'M GONNA CUT YOUR TONGUE OUT.
THUD!
SOUNDS LIKE WE GOT COMPANY.
MAYBE YOUR PRIEST HAS GOTTEN BRAVE AND COME LOOKING FOR YOU.
I'LL GO TAKE A LOOK.

AVENGELYNE.
CARRIE?!
YOU SHOULDN'T BE HERE--YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHO THESE PEOPLE ARE.
I KNOW-- I SAW YOUR FRIEND IN THE SHOWER.
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT... ARE YOU REALLY--I MEAN, IS IT TRUE-- YOU'RE AN ANGEL?
COME ON-- WE'VE GOT SOME WORK TO DO.
PERHAPS YOU WERE RIGHT, AVENGELYNE.
PERHAPS WE DESIRE YOU BECAUSE WE FEAR YOU.
DESPITE MY HOPES, IT SEEMS I'LL HAVE TO DESTROY YOU AFTER ALL.
CARRIE, GET OUT OF HERE NOW!

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SHALL BE DESTROYED, EVITZ!
HUH?!
COME NOW, AVENGELYNE.
I AM A DEMON LORD WITH THE BLOOD OF A THOUSAND ANGELS ON MY HANDS!
MY SWORD!
YOUR PITIFUL SKILLS ARE NO MATCH FOR MY POWER!

I WONDER WHAT AWAITS YOU IN DEATH.
DID YOU REALLY BELIEVE GOD WHEN HE SAID ANGELS HAVE NO SOULS? PERHAPS HE WILL LET YOU PERISH--LIKE A CANDLE, YOUR FLAME SHALL SIMPLY FLICKER OUT AS THOUGH IT HAD NEVER BURNED.
HUH?!
S-SO...
E-EVEN YOU--HAVE A GUARDIAN ANGEL.
FORTUNATELY... S-SHE DID NOT PIERCE MY HEART.
B-BUT I FEAR I MUST CONCEDE THIS BATTLE...OUR DISCUSSION WILL HAVE TO WAIT FOR ANOTHER TIME.
BUT THAT TIME WILL COME, AVENGELYNE.
CARRIE... RUN!
UH, OH.

"I PROMISE YOU."
CLANK!
CARRIE...
THANK YOU.
I GUESS NOW WE'RE EVEN.
MEANWHILE...
ONLY THROUGH MORALITY CAN AMERICA RENEW ITS POSITION AS THE LEADER OF THE FREE WORLD. IF I AM ELECTED PRESIDENT, RIGHTEOUSNESS WILL FINALLY HAVE A VOICE IN WASHINGTON.
YOU KNOW NOTHING OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, CLARK!
WHO IS THIS WOMAN-- SOMEONE GET THE POLICE!
YOU WILL NEVER FINISH THOSE WORDS, AVENGELYNE!
NEVER!
THE POLICE CAN'T HELP YOU WHERE YOU'RE GOING, CLARK. WHILE I WAS BENEATH THE STAGE, I PAINTED A CROSS IN MY OWN BLOOD. ONCE I SAY THE SCRIPTURE, YOU WILL BE IMPRISONED IN PURGATORY FOREVER!
"THERE MET JESUS TWO POSSESSED WITH DEVILS...COMING OUT OF THE TOMBS..."

EVITZ SHOULD HAVE DESTROYED YOU, BUT LIKE B'LIALE HE WAS SEDUCED BY YOUR CHARMS. THAT FATE SHALL NOT BEFALL ME!
GOOD LORD, PETER--WHAT'S GOING ON?! WHAT HAPPENED TO CLARK?!
I DON'T KNOW, BUT THE PEOPLE ARE ALL RUNNING FOR THE EXITS--EVERYONE'S GOING TO BE TRAMPLED!
YOU COULD HAVE MADE A DIFFERENCE, CARTER--WHEN YOU FELL TO EARTH YOU COULD HAVE USED THE DIVINITY WITHIN YOURSELF TO BETTER THIS WORLD. INSTEAD, YOU'VE JOINED WITH THE DRAGON AND HAVE ATTEMPTED TO LEAD THIS COUNTRY DOWN THE PATH OF UTTER DAMNATION!
AND THANKS TO YOU THAT PLAN HAS BEEN RUINED!
"THERE IS NO MAN THAT HATH POWER OVER THE SPIRIT..."

THOK!
AH'M NO MATCH FOR YOU, MISSY, BUT AH'LL DROP IN ON YA SOMETIME-- YOU BE LOOKIN' FOR ME.
AVENGELYNE-- AVENGELYNE!
I'M ALL RIGHT, PETER.
CARTER WAS A DEMON?!
THEY ALL WERE-- GRAHAM TOO. I TRICKED CARTER INTO FIGHTING ME-- I T-TOLD HIM I HAD PAINTED A BLOOD CROSS UNDER THE STAGE--THAT I WAS GOING TO EXORCISE HIM AS WE DID B'LIALE...
CARTER'S BODY IS DISINTE-GRATING--THE POLICE ARE GOING TO BE ASKING A LOT OF QUESTIONS--WE'VE GOT TO GET YOU OUT OF HERE!
A-ALL RIGHT-- I THINK I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THE CRUSADE FESTIVAL TO LAST ME A LIFETIME.
"...NEITHER HATH HE POWER IN THE DAY OF DEATH."
ECCLESIASTES 8:8

THE NEXT DAY, AT ST. AMBROSE.
I'M SORRY OFFICER, I HAVEN'T SEEN THEM SINCE THEY JUMPED ON STAGE AT THE FESTIVAL.
THANKS, FATHER--WE FIGURE IT WAS SOME KIND OF PUBLICITY STUNT, BUT A LOT OF PEOPLE GOT HURT TRYING TO GET OUT OF THERE. WE'D LIKE TO ASK THE GIRL SOME QUESTIONS.
I AGREE COMPLETELY, OFFICER HAYES, IF THEY COME AROUND I'LL CALL YOU IMMEDIATELY.
MAY THE LORD FORGIVE MY LIE.
IT WAS FOR THE GREATER GOOD, DAVID--I THINK GOD WILL UNDERSTAND. HOW CAN WE EVER REPAY YOU?
I NEVER THOUGHT IN MY LIFE THAT I WOULD COME FACE TO FACE WITH AN ANGEL--EVEN A MORTAL ANGEL. YOUR PRESENCE HAS LIFTED MY HEART, AVENGELYNE. THERE MAY BE SOME HOPE FOR THIS WORLD AFTER ALL.
PETER, REPAYMENT ISN'T NECESSARY. AVENGELYNE SHARES IN GOD'S DIVINITY--IT IS MY DUTY TO HELP HER.
YOU ARE A GOOD MAN, DAVID. YOUR NAME IS SURELY WRITTEN IN THE LAMB'S BOOK OF LIFE--YOU WILL BE WITH MY FATHER SOMEDAY.

CARRIE ASKED ME TO SAY GOODBYE. HER AUNT CAME AND GOT HER. SHE'S GOING TO LIVE WITH HER IN SAN FRANCISCO, AND TRY TO RECOVER FROM HER YEARS OF ABUSE. I BELIEVE SHE'S GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT.
I'M GLAD. SHE DESERVES A SECOND CHANCE FOR HAPPINESS.
WE BETTER GET STARTED, AVENGELYNE. IT'S A LONG DRIVE TO MY SISTER'S HOUSE IN VEGAS.
MEANWHILE...
REPORT, AMANDA.
SHE'S LEAVING THE CITY WITH THE PRIEST. WE BELIEVE THEY ARE HEADING TOWARD NEVADA--LAS VEGAS TO BE PRECISE.
WE HAVE FRIENDS IN LAS VEGAS. WARN THEM...TELL THEM AN ANGEL IS COMING...AN ANGEL OF DESTRUCTION.
VERY WELL, SIR.
THERE WILL BE TIME FOR US LATER, AVENGELYNE. WE WILL MEET AGAIN.

SO TELL ME, PETER-- WHAT'S THIS LAS VEGAS LIKE?
OH, IT'S VERY DIFFERENT FROM LA--A LOT BRIGHTER. MY SISTER LIVES THERE, SHE'S GOING TO LET US STAY WITH HER JUST UNTIL THINGS QUIET DOWN.
THAT'S GOOD...
"I COULD USE SOME QUIET AFTER THIS TRIP."
COMING NEXT
AVENGELYNE: DEADLY SINS!
ON SALE SOON!

AVENGELYNE

CHAPTER 7

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA.
END OF THE LINE, FOLKS.
ENJOY YOUR STAY AND KEEP AWAY FROM THE PICK POCKETS.
WELL, AVENGELYNE, WE DIDN'T ARRIVE IN STYLE, BUT AT LEAST WE FINALLY MADE IT.
WE'RE LUCKY THE CAR BROKE DOWN SO CLOSE TO THAT TOWN BACK THERE*.
YES, BUT I HAVE TO ADMIT, THE BUS RIDE WASN'T EXACTLY... RELAXING.
BETTER THAN WALKING.
*A yet to be chronicled event taking place shortly after AVENGELYNE: POWER #3.

LAS VEGAS
ESPECIALLY IN THIS HEAT.
I KNOW-- IS IT ALWAYS LIKE THIS?
MOST OF THE TIME-- IT IS THE DESERT, AFTER ALL.
SO THIS IS A DESERT...
...IT'S SO... BARREN.
I HOPE THE REST OF LAS VEGAS IS MORE HOSPITABLE.
BELIEVE ME, ONCE WE'RE IN TOWN, YOU'LL SEE WHY THIS PLACE IS CALLED AN OASIS...
...AS WELL AS THE CAPITOL OF SIN.
THE LAST TIME I WAS IN A "CAPITOL OF SIN" I BROUGHT FORTH MY FATHER'S WRATH.

"WELL, AVENGELYNE, LET'S HOPE THIS TRIP IS LESS EVENTFUL."
THE VEGAS STRIP.
NOW PLAYING
JIMMY HOFFA
IN "HELP I'VE FALLEN AND
"BUT THE MEN OF SODOM WERE WICKED AND SINNERS BEFORE THE LORD EXCEEDINGLY." GENESIS 13: 13
BLACK-JACK! YOU WIN AGAIN, SIR.
CAESAR'S PALACE HOTEL AND CASINO.
DID YOU SELL YOUR SOUL TO THE DEVIL WHEN I WASN'T LOOKING?! YOU'VE NEVER BEEN THIS LUCKY BEFORE, HONEY.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS, SARAH, I'M JUST ON A HOT STREAK.
I WISH MY LUCK WERE AS GOOD. MY NAME'S CHRIS BY THE WAY.
I'M BILL, THIS IS MY WIFE SARAH.
NICE TO MEET YOU BOTH.
HER FACE, GREED.
I WANT IT.
YOU ALWAYS DO.
THEIR BLOOD IS THE REAL PRIZE, MY DEAR ENVY. THAT IS WHAT YOU SHOULD DESIRE.
SATIATE YOUR OWN DESIRES, GREED--AND I'LL SATIATE MINE.
FINE-- THEN I SHALL HAVE THEM ALL TO MYSELF--WHICH IS EXACTLY THE WAY I LIKE IT.
GREEDY BITCH.
HAHAHAHA!

ENVY
HONEY, I'M TIRED --YOU'VE WON ENOUGH.
YOU GO--I'M NOT LEAVING UNTIL I'VE CLEANED OUT THE ENTIRE CASINO!
HEY! I'M TIRED OF YOU WINNING! LOOK AT YOU--YOU HAVE A TON OF CHIPS, A BEAUTIFUL WIFE--ME, I HAVE NOTHING!
YOU'RE JUST ENVIOUS-- WHY DON'T YOU SHUT THE %$% UP!
WHY DON'T YOU MAKE ME, YOU GREEDY BASTARD!
SMASH!
I'M GOING TO SHUT YOU UP FOR GOOD!
SLICE!
"THAT HARLOT, ENVY, WHO ON CAESAR'S FACE KEEPS FIXED FOREVER HER ADULTEROUS STARE." DANTE'S INFERNO.

GREED
-KOFF!-
-GURGLE-
OH MY GOD, BILL-- HIS THROAT!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT HIM, BEAUTIFUL.
HUH?!
HE BELONGS TO GREED NOW. BUT YOU...YOU'RE MINE... ALL MINE.
WH-WHAT IN GOD'S NAME ARE YOU? WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME?
ONLY YOUR PAINTED SMILE...NOW HOLD STILL.
I WILLED HIM TO CUT YOUR NECK--THE NECK BLEEDS BEST OF ALL.
-GURGLE-
-GURGLE-
"THEY ARE GREEDY DOGS WHICH CAN NEVER HAVE ENOUGH." ISAIAH 16: 11

LUST
"WE DESIRE MOST WHAT WE OUGHT NOT TO HAVE."
PUBLILIUS SYRUS, SENTENTIAE.
COME ON, LUST--WE'VE BEEN DRIVIN' ALL NIGHT. JUST PICK SOMEONE AND LET'S GET STARTED.
WHY DID PRIDE HAVE TO PAIR ME WITH THIS SIMPLETON?
I'M LOOKING FOR SOMEONE SPECIAL, GLUTTONY--SOMEONE WHO DENIES THE DARKNESS WITHIN THEMSELVES...
...SOMEONE LIKE HIM.
ACCORDING TO THIS MAP, CIRCUS CIRCUS IS A FEW BLOCKS AWAY. LET'S GET A CAB, LADIES.
SOUNDS GOOD--MY FEET ARE KILLING ME.
PARKING
HIYA, HANDSOME--I'M CAMILLE. WHY DON'T YOU DITCH THE GIRLS AND PARTY WITH A REAL WOMAN.
WHY DON'T YOU--
GULP

GLUTTONY
LET'S FIND A HOTEL ROOM, CAMILLE--RIGHT NOW!
RELAX, BIG BOY--WE GOT ALL NIGHT TO PARTY.
JIM--WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?!
JIM!
GET LOST, SWEETHEART. HE WANTS ME--NOT YOU.
THAT'S RIGHT, JIM. YOU WANT CAMILLE--YOU CRAVE HER LIKE YOU'VE NEVER CRAVED ANYTHING BEFORE IN YOUR ENTIRE, PATHETIC LIFE.
YES--I MUST HAVE HER!
JIM--JIM?!
YOUR DAD'S HAD IT, KID. NO ONE CAN ESCAPE LUST WHEN SHE SINKS HER CLAWS INTO YA.
NOW, ME--I FEED ON GOODNESS.
I FIND THE PUREST SOULS AROUND AND I GOBBLE THEM UP. AS YOU CAN SEE I HAVE QUITE AN APPETITE...
...BUT YOU SHOULD MAKE A TASTY MORSEL.
"THE MORSEL WHICH THOU HAST EATEN SHALT THOU VOMIT UP, AND LOSE THY SWEET WORDS." PROVERBS 23: 8

HERE WE ARE, AVENGELYNE, MY SISTER'S PLACE. ANNETTE'S STILL IN COLLEGE, SO SHE SPENDS MOST OF HER TIME STUDYING.
THINGS ARE USUALLY PRETTY QUIET AROUND HERE.
616
KNOCK!
OH, PETER-- THANK GOD YOU'RE HERE!
ANNETTE, WHAT'S WRONG?!
IT'S ON THE TV! EVERY-ONE'S GOING CRAZY!
THIS IS STAN FREEDMAN REPORTING LIVE FROM THE LAS VEGAS STRIP. CHAOS AND PANDEMONIUM HAVE SEIZED THE CITY IN WHAT CAN ONLY BE DESCRIBED AS A FULL SCALE RIOT!
IT ALL BEGAN ABOUT AN HOUR OR SO AGO WHEN DISTURBANCES WERE REPORTED BY ALL THE MAJOR CASINOS ALONG THE STRIP. A SHORT TIME LATER, LOCAL FIRE DEPART-MENTS WERE OVERWHELMED BY A SUDDEN OUTBREAK OF ARSON INCIDENTS.
WHAT'S MOST INCREDIBLE IS THAT ALL OF THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THESE INCIDENTS APPEAR TO BE TOURISTS AND LOCAL RESIDENTS. MEN, WOMEN, AND CHILDREN FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE HAVE BEEN SEEN COMMITTING ALL SORTS OF CRIMES--FROM LUDE CONDUCT IN PUBLIC TO STEALING LARGE QUANTITIES OF FOOD!
AS WE SPEAK, THE NATIONAL GUARD IS NEARING LAS VEGAS, BUT UNTIL THE FIRES AND VIOLENCE IS CONTAINED, WE ARE ADVISING EVERYONE TO REMAIN INDOORS.
NO... IT'S THEM. PRIDE AND THE REST OF THE SEVEN ARE HERE...

PRIDE
"PRIDE IS THE BEGINNING OF SIN." BEN SIRA, BOOK OF WISDOM.
AND NOW, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THE WORLD FAMOUS MAGICIANS ZIEGFRIED AND ROID WILL MAKE THE TIGER DISAPPEAR INTO THIN AIR.
Ziegfried Roid
THIS IS BORING, PRIDE-- LET'S GET SOMETHING STARTED!
WHEN I SAY, WRATH--NOT BEFORE.
I BET THE OTHERS HAVE STARTED ALREADY-- WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?!
YOU'RE ONE ORNERY BASTARD, YOU KNOW THAT?
I'M WRATH, GOD DAMN IT!
ALL RIGHT-- I GUESS I'VE KEPT YOU WAITING LONG ENOUGH.
WATCH THE TIGER.

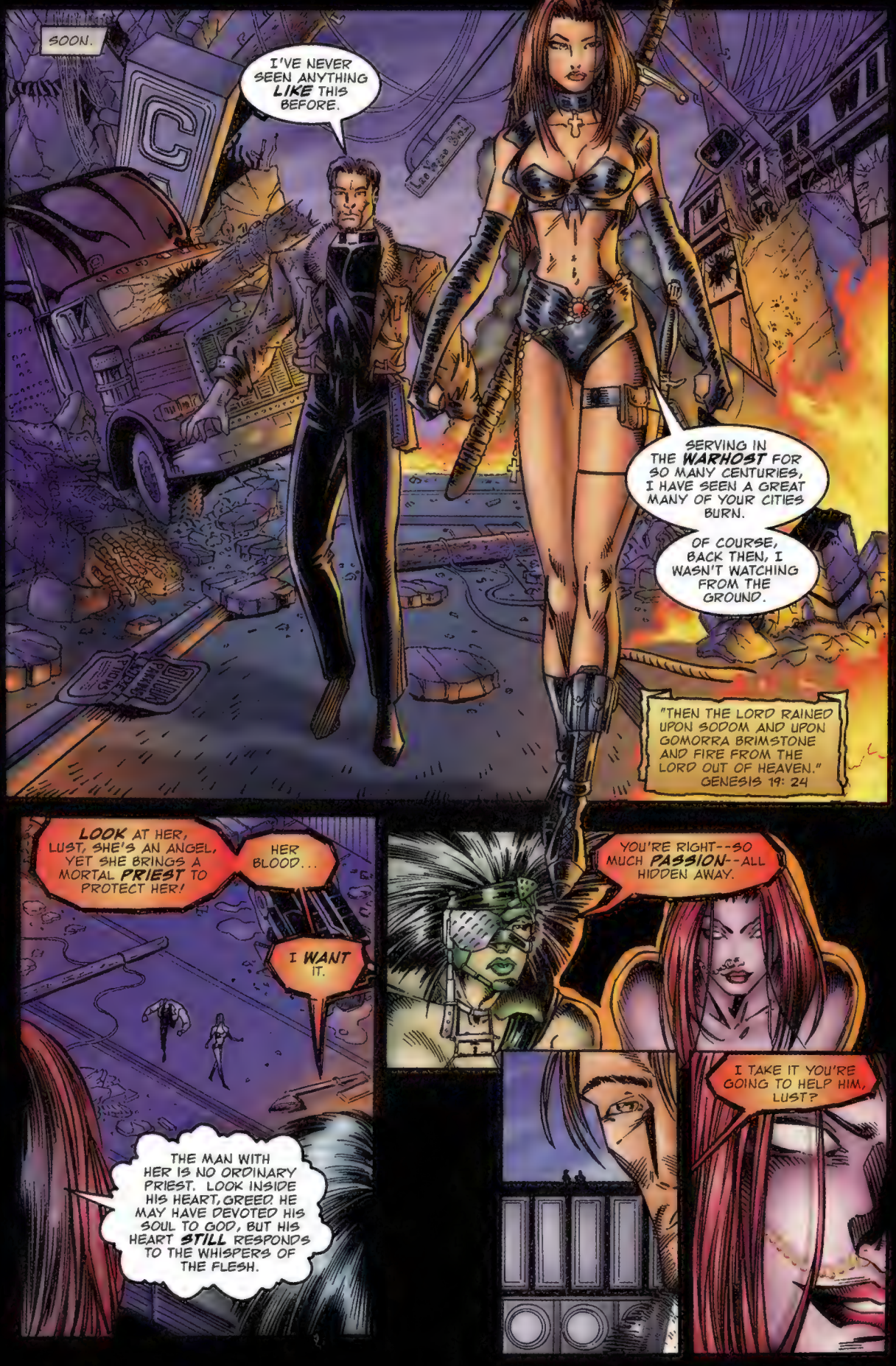
YOU'RE A PREDATOR-- NOT A PET.
SHOW THEM YOUR PRIDE.
ROOARR!
ROID, HELP ME!
HURRY, SOMEONE GET THE TRAN-QUILIZER GUN!
ROAARR!
WRATH
GET THE HELL OUT OF MY WAY!
$%※ YOU, MAN!
EXIT
IS THAT GOOD ENOUGH FOR YOU?
PRIDE, YOU HAVEN'T LOST YOUR TOUCH!
NOTHING LIKE PEOPLE GETTING TRAMPLED TO FUEL THE FIRES OF WRATH!
"A SOFT ANSWER TURNETH AWAY WRATH; BUT GRIEVOUS WORDS STIR UP ANGER." PROVERBS 15: 1.

SLOTH
"FOR SATAN FINDS SOME MISCHIEF STILL FOR IDLE HANDS TO DO."
ISAAC WATTS, DIVINE SONGS.
YOU'LL FORGIVE MY LANGUOR, MY FRIENDS...BUT I NEED SOMEONE TO SERVE AS MY APPENDAGES.
AND THE DEAD ARE SO COOPERATIVE.
JESUS
SISTER
NOW, LET US JOIN THE OTHERS.

LATER
AS SOON AS SHE GETS HERE, I GET HER FIRST!
YOU ALWAYS GET TO GO FIRST, GREED. THIS TIME IT'S MY TURN!
WILL YOU TWO SHUT UP?!
LORD EVITZ* WAS RIGHT--THE FALLEN ANGEL IS IN OUR MIDST.
ONCE SHE SEES WHAT'S GOING ON HERE, SHE'LL COME, AND THEN WE SEVEN SHALL DEAL WITH HER TOGETHER.
*Lord Evitz is Avengelyne's nemesis from the AVENGELYNE: POWER mini-series.

THANKS FOR THE COFFEE, ANNETTE.
I'M JUST SO GLAD YOU'RE HERE. DO YOU THINK THE NATIONAL GUARD WILL BE ABLE TO GET CONTROL OF THE CITY?
I PRAY SO. AS LONG AS WE STAY HERE, WE SHOULD BE SAFE.
AVENGELYNE, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
I NEED SOME AIR.
SHE ALWAYS ACT SO WEIRD?
SHE'S BEEN THROUGH QUITE AN ORDEAL RECENTLY. I'LL GO TALK WITH HER.
PETER--I SPOKE TO DAD LAST NIGHT...HE ASKED ABOUT YOU.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO LIE TO ME, ANNETTE, I KNOW HE'S NOT INTERESTED IN ME--NOT WHILE I'M WEARING THIS COLLAR.
WE BOTH KNOW THAT DAD WILL NEVER FORGIVE ME FOR JOINING THE PRIESTHOOD--FOR NOT FOLLOWING IN HIS AND OUR BROTHER'S FOOTSTEPS AND BECOMING A DOCTOR...FOR NOT PROVIDING HIM WITH DOZENS OF GRAND-CHILDREN TO BOUNCE ON HIS KNEE.
I'M SORRY--I SHOULDN'T HAVE LIED TO YOU.
NONE OF THIS IS YOUR FAULT, KIDDO.
BUT THANKS FOR TRYING TO MAKE ME FEEL BETTER.
SHORTLY...
AVENGELYNE, WHAT'S THE MATTER --ARE YOU UPSET ABOUT THE RIOT?
OH, PETER...
...IT'S NOT A RIOT.
IT'S NOT?

THEN WHAT IS IT?
THERE ARE SEVEN OF THEM.
SEVEN DEMONS... EXTREMELY POWERFUL.
THEY CAN'T BE SEEN OR HEARD...EXCEPT WHEN THEY WISH TO BE. EACH OF THEM REPRESENTS ONE OF THE SEVEN DEADLY SINS OF MAN.
THEY HAVE THE POWER TO MANIFEST THESE SINS IN HUMANS, AND BY DOING SO, THEY NOURISH THEMSELVES AND PERPETUATE THEIR EXISTENCE.
THEY ARE THE REASON FOR THE DISTURBANCE IN THE CITY.
HOW COULD YOU KNOW THIS?
ANGELS AND DEMONS SHARE A COMMON HERITAGE, PETER--WE WERE ALL BORN OF GOD'S LIGHT. MOST OF THEM I CAN FEEL--SOME I CANNOT. BUT THE SEVEN...THEIR STENCH IS UNMISTAKABLE.
THEN THERE'S ONLY ONE THING WE CAN DO.
WE'LL LEAVE--RIGHT NOW.
ONCE WE'RE GONE, THE DEMONS SHOULD FREE THE CITY... AND YOU'LL BE SAFE FROM THEM.
NO--THEY'LL CONTINUE TO PLUNDER THE CITY UNTIL I RETURN. I MUST FACE THEM.
THEN I'M GOING, TOO--AND DON'T TRY TO TALK ME OUT OF IT LIKE YOU DID IN LOS ANGELES --MY DECISION IS FINAL.
PETER, IT'S TOO... SIGH VERY WELL.
I CAN THINK OF NO ONE I WOULD RATHER HAVE AT MY SIDE.
THEY HAVE ASSEMBLED HERE, IN THIS TIME AND PLACE FOR ME. SOMEHOW THEY KNEW WE WERE COMING. I AM THE CAUSE OF ALL THIS DESTRUCTION.


SOON.
I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS BEFORE.
SERVING IN THE WARHOST FOR SO MANY CENTURIES, I HAVE SEEN A GREAT MANY OF YOUR CITIES BURN.
OF COURSE, BACK THEN, I WASN'T WATCHING FROM THE GROUND.
"THEN THE LORD RAINED UPON SODOM AND UPON GOMORRA BRIMSTONE AND FIRE FROM THE LORD OUT OF HEAVEN." GENESIS 19: 24
LOOK AT HER, LUST, SHE'S AN ANGEL, YET SHE BRINGS A MORTAL PRIEST TO PROTECT HER!
HER BLOOD...
I WANT IT.
THE MAN WITH HER IS NO ORDINARY PRIEST. LOOK INSIDE HIS HEART, GREED. HE MAY HAVE DEVOTED HIS SOUL TO GOD, BUT HIS HEART STILL RESPONDS TO THE WHISPERS OF THE FLESH.
YOU'RE RIGHT--SO MUCH PASSION--ALL HIDDEN AWAY.
I TAKE IT YOU'RE GOING TO HELP HIM, LUST?

"WHO BETTER THAN ME, TO FREE A MAN'S PASSION."
UHH..MY HEAD!
IT'S THEM! I SHOULD HAVE NEVER LET YOU COME WITH ME! CAN YOU WALK? I'VE GOT TO GET YOU BACK TO THE HOUSE.
PETER, WHAT'S WRONG?
PETER... ANSWER ME, CAN YOU WALK?!
PETER-- I'VE SEEN THE WAY YOU LOOK AT ME.
THE WAY YOUR EYES CARESS MY BODY--COMMITTING EVERY DETAIL TO MEMORY.
ALWAYS LONGING FOR ME...
AVENGELYNE.
...BUT NEVER HAVING ME.
GO ON-- YOU KNOW IT'S TRUE.

I'VE WANTED YOU SINCE THE FIRST NIGHT IN THE CHURCH-!
IT IS TRUE--IT IS!
AVENGELYNE--I LOVE YOU!
IT'S TIME WE CONSUMMATED OUR LOVE, AVENGELYNE.
PETER, LISTEN TO ME--IT'S LUST--SHE'S DOING THIS TO YOU!
ALWAYS LONGING FOR YOU...
...BUT NEVER HAVING YOU.
I CAN NO LONGER RESIST THE TEMPTATION!
THOK!
I'M SORRY, PETER.
"WE'RE CLOSE, ANGEL--CLOSER THAN YOU THINK. COME AND PLAY."

HELLO, ANGEL!
I'M ENVY--THIS IS GLUTTONY. YOU'VE MADE QUITE A NAME FOR YOURSELF, AVENGELYNE--IT'S A PLEASURE TO FINALLY MEET YOU.
WE MET ONCE BEFORE--IN PANDEMONIUM, SHORTLY AFTER THE DRAGON'S REVOLT AGAINST GOD.
I CAN'T IMAGINE FORGETTING YOUR FACE. BUT THEN AGAIN, IT'S POSSIBLE...SO MANY FACES TO REMEMBER.
NOW THAT YOU'RE A MORTAL, I PLAN TO ADD YOURS TO MY COLLECTION. IT'S EXQUISITE, BY THE WAY--BOTH FIERCE AND SOFT. THE FACE OF AN INNOCENT WHO HAS SLAUGHTERED THOUSANDS OF OUR KIND IN SERVICE TO HER FATHER.
THIS IS A GAME TO THEM--THEY DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO THESE PEOPLE. SOMEHOW, I HAVE TO DESTROY THEM--WITHOUT DESTROYING WHAT'S LEFT OF LAS VEGAS.
AND WILL SLAY A THOUSAND MORE BEFORE I'M FINISHED!

UGH!
KLUD!
GET AWAY FROM ME, ZOMBIE!
SMAK!
=YAWN= THEY PREFER THE TERM "UNDEAD."
NOT VERY APROPOS, HOWEVER. I CAN ASSURE YOU OF ONE THING, THEY NEVER HAD THIS MUCH FUN IN LIFE.
DESTROY HER!
SHHK!
THOK!
THAT WON'T DO, ANGEL!

GASP!
AS YOU CAN SEE-MY AUTOMATONS ARE NOT SO EASILY DEFEATED!
THEY SHALL SERVE ME FAITHFULLY
:SO LONG AS MY TENDRILS REMAIN INTERTWINED WITH THEIR BEING.
INDEED, SLOTH-
THEN ALLOW ME TO SET THEM FREE!
FHHT!
ONE THING I FORGOT TO TELL YOU, ANGEL-
ONCE SLASHED, MY TENDRILS SIMPLY REGENERATE.
IN A MATTER OF SECONDS, MY SERVANTS WILL RISE AGAIN
MY TURN, SLOTH!
AHHH!
DID THAT HURT, MY SWEET?
I TRULY HOPE SO.

NOW IT'S TIME FOR ME TO CLAIM YOUR FACE-
WATCH CAREFULLY THE VISAGES AROUND MY WASTE!
THAT'S RIGHT, AVENGELYNE -IT IS YOUR FACE... THAT WHICH IS NOW MINE.
NEVER!
NEVER.
I-I'VE GOT TO HIDE FOR AWHILE- SEE HOW BAD MY WOUND IS. TH-THAT HOTEL...
Dante's Place est.1666
PERHAPS I CAN REST HERE- RECOVER BEFORE THEY FIND ME AGAIN
WELCOME, AVENGELYNE.
GASP!
I AM PRIDE-LEADER OF THE SEVEN.
IN FACT, ONE COULD SAY THAT WE'VE NEVER LOST A GUEST.
THIS IS OUR VERY OWN SHANGRI-LA. WE CALL IT THE INFERNO, AND MUCH LIKE A NORMAL HOTEL ON VEGAS STRIP, IT'S RATHER EASY TO CHECK IN. BUT CHECKING OUT IS SOMEWHAT COMPLICATED.
TO BE CONTINUED

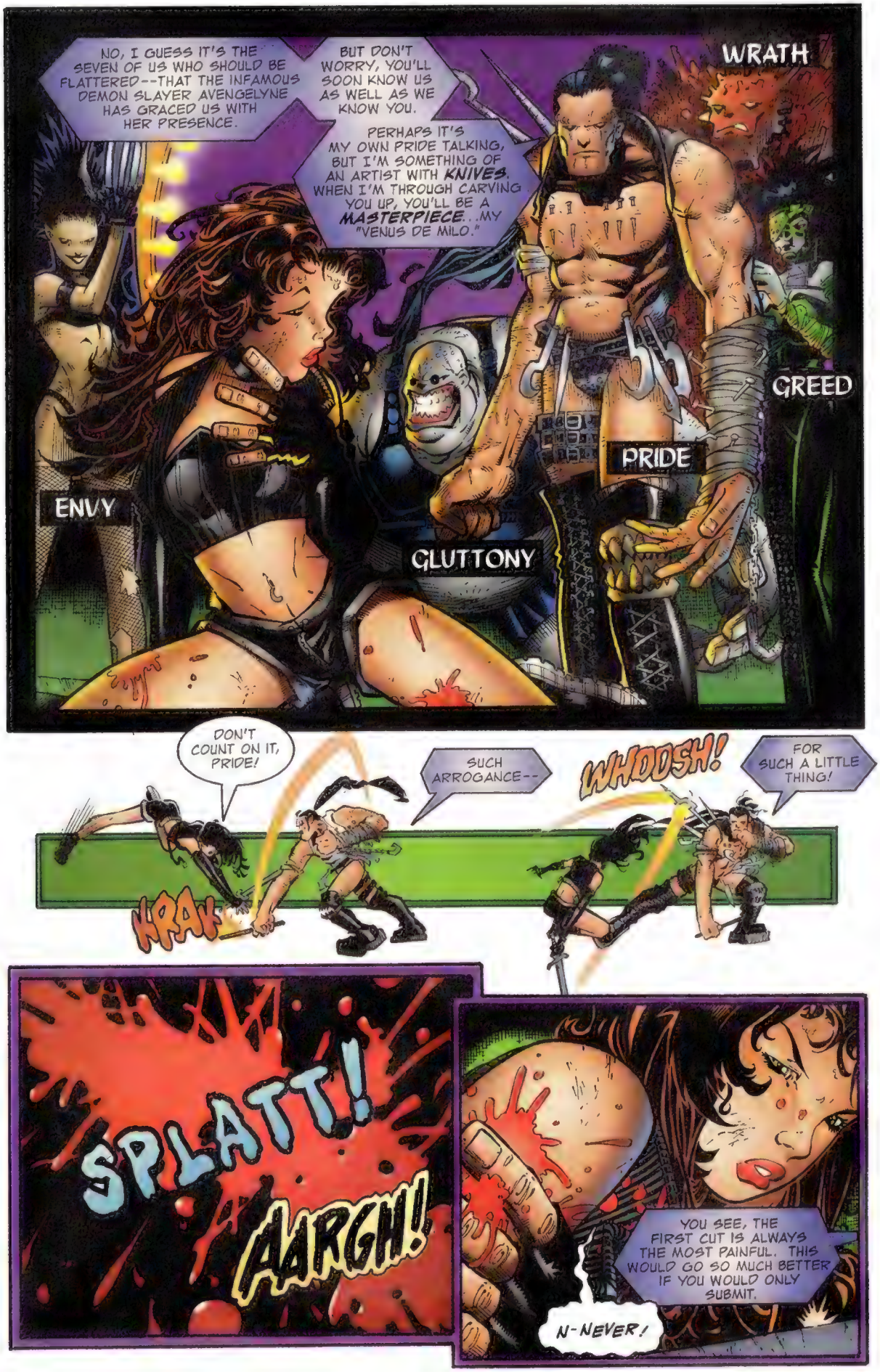
AVENGELYNE

CHAPTER 8

AVENGELYNE

DEADLY SINS PART 2

"LEAVING LAS VEGAS"


NO, I GUESS IT'S THE SEVEN OF US WHO SHOULD BE FLATTERED--THAT THE INFAMOUS DEMON SLAYER AVENGELYNE HAS GRACED US WITH HER PRESENCE.
BUT DON'T WORRY, YOU'LL SOON KNOW US AS WELL AS WE KNOW YOU.
PERHAPS IT'S MY OWN PRIDE TALKING, BUT I'M SOMETHING OF AN ARTIST WITH KNIVES. WHEN I'M THROUGH CARVING YOU UP, YOU'LL BE A MASTERPIECE...MY "VENUS DE MILO."
WRATH
GREED
PRIDE
ENVY
GLUTTONY
DON'T COUNT ON IT, PRIDE!
SUCH ARROGANCE--
KRAK
WHOOSH!
FOR SUCH A LITTLE THING!
SPLATT!
AARGH!
YOU SEE, THE FIRST CUT IS ALWAYS THE MOST PAINFUL. THIS WOULD GO SO MUCH BETTER IF YOU WOULD ONLY SUBMIT.
N-NEVER!

I'LL NEVER S-SURRENDER TO YOUR KIND...I'D NEVER GIVE YOU THE SATISFACTION.
ROOMS
CASINO
SERVICES
HA HA HA HA!
PERHAPS IT IS YOU WHO SHOULD BE CALLED PRIDE.
CAN'T YOU SEE THAT IT'S OVER--THAT WE HAVE SUCCEEDED WHERE LEGIONS OF OUR BRETHREN HAVE FAILED? YOU BELONG TO US NOW, AVENGELYNE--ACCEPT THE INEVITABLE BEFORE YOUR LIGHT IS EXTINGUISHED FOREVER.
GOD'S LIGHT...CANNOT BE EXTINGUISHED.
BUT YOU'RE RIGHT...I HAVEN'T THE S-STRENGTH TO FIGHT YOU.
THEN THROW DOWN YOUR SWORD AND SWEAR ALLEGIANCE TO THE DRAGON.
KLANK!

THIS WAS EASIER THAN MAKING THE PRIEST SURRENDER TO HIS LUSTFUL DESIRES. I THOUGHT AVENGELYNE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE TOUGH.
LUST
TAKE CARE, LUST, SHE IS NOT WHAT SHE ONCE WAS. SHE IS MORTAL NOW--AND MORTALITY BEGETS WEAKNESS.
NOW, AVENGELYNE, I THINK IT'S TIME I BEGIN WORK ON MY MASTERPIECE. I'LL TRY NOT TO MAKE THE FIRST CUT TOO PAINFUL.
PLEASE, WAIT!
I KNOW WHAT YOU WANT, PRIDE. LET ME... HELP YOU.
YOU SURPRISE ME, AVENGELYNE. VERY WELL--HELP ME.
SLIT!
AHHH.
WAS THAT A MOAN OF PAIN OR PLEASURE?
EITHER WAY, SHE'S DIGGIN' IT.
SLIT!
AHHHHH.
AVENGELYNE... IN ALL THE CENTURIES, NO ONE HAS EVER...SHARED THIS WITH ME
LET ME SEE WHAT YOU'VE CARVED INTO YOUR BODY.
T-THERE'S NOTHING TO SEE...BUT BLOOD.
ANGEL BLOOD.
"SO THE DEVILS BESOUGHT HIM, SAYING, IF THOU CAST US OUT, SUFFER US TO GO AWAY INTO THE HERD OF SWINE."
"AND JESUS SAID UNTO THEM..."

"GO!"
"THEN THE DEVIL LEAVETH HIM, AND, BEHOLD, ANGELS CAME AND MINISTERED UNTO HIM."
MATTHEW 4: 11.
KLUD!
I WAS A FOOL--MY OWN PRIDE GOT THE BETTER OF ME. IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! SHE'S GETTING AWAY!

Uhhh... AVENGELYNE?
OH, MY HEAD.
I FEEL LIKE I'VE BEEN RUN OVER BY A FREIGHT TRAIN, I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED?
I WAS WITH AVENGELYNE-- WE STARTED TO INVESTIGATE THE RIOT, AND THEN--
OH MY GOODNESS!
I...I... FORCED MYSELF ON AVENGELYNE-- I TOLD HER THAT I LOVED HER!
OH, MY FATHER, FORGIVE MY TRANSGRESSION. I WAS NOT MYSELF.
AND NEITHER ARE THESE PEOPLE-- THEIR BEHAVIOR HAS BEEN AFFECTED BY THE SEVEN DEMONS. AVENGELYNE DESCRIBED.
I MUST HELP THEM... SOMEHOW.
Oi!
PEOPLE, PLEASE LISTEN TO ME!
YOU ARE BEING SUBJECTED TO A VERY POWERFUL FORCE--A FORCE OF EVIL! YOU MUST STOP THIS AT ONCE-- YOU CAN FACE YOUR TEMPTATION IF YOU TRUST IN GOD!
REMEMBER PHILIPPIANS 4:13, "I CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH CHRIST WHICH STRENGTHENETH ME."
THEY REFUSE TO HEAR ME--GOD'S WORD HAS FALLEN ON DEAF EARS!
I HAVE TO FIND AVENGELYNE-- WE HAVE TO STOP THIS AT THE SOURCE.

"SHE'LL KNOW WHAT TO DO."
SO MANY OF THEM, WHAT SHOULD I DO?
AND THESE POOR PEOPLE--THEY AREN'T STRONG ENOUGH TO RESIST THE DEADLY SIN'S INFLUENCE. I'VE GOT TO SAVE THEM... IF I CAN.
WAK!
WAK!
KRASH
IF I AM TO WIN, I CAN'T PLAY BY PRIDE'S RULES.
THE SINS ARE USED TO BEING THE HUNTERS...
...BUT NOW, THEY MUST BECOME THE HUNTED.
PARDON ME, MA'AM.
Huh?

AH COULDN'T HELP BUT NOTICE THAT YOU WERE ALL BY YOUR LONE-SOME.
W-WHO ARE YOU?
AH'M THE KING, MA'AM.
AND WHAT IS THAT?
AH'M WITH THEM.
SHE'S OVER HERE!
AN' AH HAVE TO SAY, YOU'RE THE PRETTIEST LITTLE GIRL WE'VE HAD AT THE INFERNO SINCE MY EX-WIFE PRISCILLA LEFT THE BUILDING.
BUT BEFORE I SAY ANYTHING ELSE, MA'AM, THERE'S SOMETHIN' YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT ME.
KRAK!
KITCHEN
WHOOSH!
"ARE YOU LONESOME TONIGHT..."

HEY, ENVY, I THINK I SAW HER RUN IN HERE. THE KITCHEN'S A GOOD PLACE TA HIDE--DON'T YA THINK?
WHATEVER. I JUST WANT HER FACE.
OKAY, LET'S SPREAD OUT.
SHORTLY.
UM, HM--LOOK AT ALL THE FOOD--JUST SITTING THERE, WAITIN' TO BE NIBBLED ON.
BUT THERE'S JUST ONE PROBLEM, ANGEL--I DON'T CRAVE FOOD. NOPE, I MUNCH ON THE GOODNESS IN PEOPLES' SOULS.
I GOTTA ADMIT, THOUGH, IT DOES SMELL GOOD IN HERE. I KNOW YOU'RE HERE SOMEWHERE--LET'S GET THIS THING OVER WITH SO I CAN HAVE A QUICK SNACK!
SPLAT!
I'M HERE, GLUTTONY!
PERHAPS A STAY IN THE REFRIGERATOR WILL COOL YOUR APPETITE!
ONE DOWN...SIX TO GO.

SHE'S HERE SOMEWHERE-- HIDING HERSELF AND THAT BEAUTIFUL VISAGE.
WHERE ARE YOU, ANGEL?! I KNOW YOU'RE HERE!
YOU WANT MY FACE, ENVY?
I KNEW IT. YES, I DON'T CARE ABOUT ANYTHING ELSE, JUST GIVE ME YOUR FACE AND I WON'T TELL THE OTHERS WHERE YOU'RE HIDING.
IF THAT'S ALL YOU WANT-- WHY DON'T YOU JUST COME AND TAKE IT?
YOU BITCH! I TRY TO MAKE A DEAL WITH YOU, AND THIS IS THE THANKS I GET? WHILE YOU GASP FOR YOUR LAST BREATH, I'M GOING TO TEAR THAT FACE RIGHT OFF YOUR SKULL!
I'M HERE, ENVY, COME AND TAKE MY FACE-- IF YOU CAN.
OH, HOW I'M GOING TO ENJOY--
--THIS?
MY FACE CAN BE YOURS, ENVY.
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS FIND IT.

Uh, WHEN I SINK MY CLAWS INTO YOU!
KRASH
DAMN IT! WHERE IS SHE?!
I'M HERE, ENVY!
OR AM I HERE?!
YOUR REPUTATION IS DESERVED, ANGEL--YOU PLAY THIS GAME WELL.
BUT CONSIDER THIS BEFORE YOU REJECT MY OFFER.
YOUR FACE WILL GROW OLD WHILE YOU SERVE YOUR SENTENCE ON EARTH--IT WILL WITHER LIKE A PRUNE UNTIL IT BECOMES UNRECOGNIZABLE. I CAN SPARE YOU THAT PAIN, IF ONLY YOU'LL COOPERATE.
THE ANSWER'S STILL NO, ENVY!
Uh, M-MY FACE... WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO IT...--?
TWO AND COUNTING.

AVENGELYNE?!
AVENGELYNE?!
I'M NEVER GOING TO FIND HER. THERE'S A MILLION PLACES FOR AN ANGEL TO BATTLE SIN IN THIS TOWN.
WAIT A MINUTE!
"DANTE'S PLACE?"
THE INFERNO--OF COURSE!
AVENGELYNE, I THINK I'VE FOUND YOU.
MEANWHILE.
THE UNTHINKABLE HAS HAPPENED...OUR CIRCLE OF POWER HAS BEEN BROKEN--GLUTTONY AND ENVY ARE GONE.
DAMN IT, THIS JUST DOESN'T HAPPEN! NO ONE BEATS US!
I KNOW, WRATH, BUT FEAR NOT, MY FRIEND; RIGHTEOUS VENGEANCE SHALL BE OURS! NOW, SEARCH THE ENTIRE HOTEL--TEAR IT APART IF YOU HAVE TO, BUT BRING ME THE HEAD OF THAT ANGEL!

I MUST FIND A PLACE WHERE I CAN NURSE MY WOUNDS, AND PREPARE FOR MY CONFRONTATION WITH THE OTHERS.
PERHAPS I CAN RECUPERATE ON THE UPPER LEVELS.
CHK!
WHOOSH!
I'M SO TIRED.
WHA--?
AHHHH!
SLOTH!
FORGIVE MY ILL MANNERS, ANGEL, BUT I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE UNWISE TO ALERT YOU TO MY PRESENCE.
PRIDE HAS EVERYONE TEARING APART THE HOTEL TRYING TO FIND YOU, BUT I KNEW YOU WOULD COME TO ME EVENTUALLY. THE OTHERS SIMPLY HAVE NO PATIENCE WHEN IT COMES TO THE HUNT.

I MUST SAY, WE WERE ALL RATHER SURPRISED BY THE DEFEAT OF GLUTTONY AND ENVY. THE "FIVE DEADLY SINS" JUST DOESN'T SOUND RIGHT, DOES IT?
YAWN I SUPPOSE WE CAN ADJUST UNTIL WE FIND REPLACEMENTS. YOU COULD BECOME THE NEW ENVY IF THE JOB INTERESTS YOU.
URRGHH!
SUCH AN EXPENDITURE OF ENERGY, BUT EVEN IF YOU BITE THROUGH, YOU KNOW MY TENDRILS WILL REGENERATE IN A MATTER OF SECONDS, SO WHY BOTHER?
CHOMP!
AAWN!
KLUD!
THAT HURT.
BUT AS YOU CAN SEE, MY TENDRILS ARE READY TO ENSNARE YOU AGAIN!
FHHT!
DAMN! MY TENDRIL'S STUCK WITH THE CABLE.
I HATE IT WHEN THAT HAPPENS. THOUGH THEY SERVE ME WELL, MY TENDRILS DO GROW WEARY FROM TIME TO TIME AND MAKE MISTAKES.
MUCH LIKE YOUR WINGS, I'M CERTAIN. DO YOU MISS THEM VERY MUCH?

PERHAPS I'VE SPOKEN OUT OF TURN. HAVE I OFFENDED YOU?
YOUR VERY EXISTENCE OFFENDS ME, SLOTH!
BUT YOUR TENDRILS ARE PROVING TO BE AN ALLY--THEY'LL KEEP YOUR BODY SECURE DURING THE DROP.
DROP? WHAT DROP?
YOUR DROP INTO PURGATORY-- I'M CASTING YOU BACK INTO THE PIT, SLOTH.
N-NOW, AVENGELYNE, DON'T DO ANYTHING RASH!
PURGATORY IS WHERE YOUR KIND BELONGS!
P-PLEASE, DON'T--THEY'LL MAKE ME WORK DOWN THERE!
SHRUNK!
REST EASY, SLOTH.
NOW, IT'S ON TO YOUR FRIENDS.

I CAN HIDE IN ONE OF THESE ROOMS--AND SET A TRAP FOR THE REMAINING SINS.
YOU'RE ONE TOUGH BROAD TO FIND, YOU KNOW THAT, ANGEL?
WHERE THE HELL YOU BEEN HIDING?!
IT DOESN'T MATTER, WRATH--THE FACT IS WE'VE FOUND HER. AND I, FOR ONE, AM GOING TO ENJOY LICKING ALL THAT BLOOD OFF HER BODY.
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU, GREED--THAT'S SLOTH'S BLOOD!
SORRY, WRATH, BUT YOU KNOW HOW I AM.
GET A LOAD OF ANGEL GIRL. SHE WANTS TO GO HEAD TO HEAD AGAINST WRATH! YOU MUST REALLY HATE ME!
I HATE NO ONE--THERE IS ONLY LOVE IN MY HEART.
YOU'LL SEE SLOTH AGAIN VERY SOON--BOTH OF YOU!
YOU B%$%H, YOU HAVE TO HATE ME--IT'S NO FUN IF YOU DON'T HATE ME--IT'S WHAT MAKES ME STRONGER!
BUT IT IS WRONG TO HATE. IT GOES AGAINST THE TEACHINGS OF MY FATHER.
I SAID HATE ME, DAMN IT!
KRASH!

I'M SORRY, GREED--I SORTA LOST MY COOL AGAIN. I'LL GET HER.
HEY, WAIT A SECOND-- AHHHHH!
SLIT!
NOW WHAT'S GOING ON?! WRATH COULDN'T WADE ACROSS THE RIVER STYX WITHOUT GETTING INTO TROUBLE.
SHE'S ESCAPED!
WRATH?!
SHE MUST HAVE SLIT HIS THROAT AND ESCAPED OUT THE WINDOW. DAMN YOU, WRATH, YOU LET YOUR OWN ANGER BECOME THE INSTRUMENT OF YOUR DESTRUCTION. PRIDE'S REALLY GOING TO BE PISSED.
BUT THERE'S NO SENSE LETTING GOOD BLOOD GO TO WASTE. SORRY, OLD FRIEND...
...BUT I AM GREED, AFTER ALL! HA HA HA!

GREED!
Uh, Oh!
THAK!
THUNK!
YOU NEVER KNEW WHEN TO QUIT, GREED--THAT WAS ALWAYS YOUR GREATEST WEAKNESS.
NOW FOR LUST... AND PRIDE.

MEANWHILE...LATER AT THE CASINO.
THINGS ARE NO BETTER HERE, IN "DANTE'S PLACE," THAN THEY WERE OUTSIDE.
BUT IF MY HUNCH IS RIGHT, AVENGELYNE'S IN HERE SOMEWHERE.
PETER--OVER HERE!
WHA--?! AVENGELYNE?!
WHOOSH!
AVENGELYNE, I'M SO GLAD I'VE FOUND YOU. I'M SORRY ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED EARLIER--IT WAS... IT WAS...
PETER, WHAT IS IT?
OH, NO! IT'S HAPPENING AGAIN!
YES, PRIEST, I'VE BEEN WATCHING YOU EVER SINCE YOU ENTERED THE HOTEL. LUST HAS NOT LEFT YOUR HEART. I KNEW YOU WOULD LEAD ME TO THE FALLEN ANGEL.
NOW, LET THE PASSION OVERTAKE YOU AND KILL AVENGELYNE BY YOUR OWN HAND!
S-SHE WANTS ME TO KILL YOU--I'M TRYING TO RESIST, BUT IT'S SO HARD!
PETER, LISTEN TO ME--

NO... OH, MY LORD!
I HAVE TO ADMIT-- CORRUPTING A MAN OF GOD IS A SPECIAL THRILL FOR ME. LET'S GO ALL THE WAY THIS TIME.
I'M AFRAID YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD IS FINISHED, PRIEST. YOU'VE JUST KILLED ONE OF HIS PRECIOUS ANGELS.
HOW ABOUT WE GO UP TO THE HONEYMOON SUITE-- JUST THE TWO OF US?
C'MON, WHAT ELSE HAVE YOU GOT TO LOSE?
NOTHING... I'VE LOST EVERYTHING.
THEN LET'S GO. I'LL MAKE YOU FORGET ABOUT HER, I PROMISE.
THIS ISN'T WHAT I H--HAD IN MIND.
GASP!
SPLUNK
WE WERE COUNTING ON THAT, LUST.
SHE DISSOLVED.
ALL DEMONS DO ONCE THEY'VE BEEN SERIOUSLY INJURED OR KILLED. THEIR PHYSICAL SHELLS COLLAPSE AND THE DARKNESS WITHIN THEM IS BANISHED TO PURGATORY.
I THINK WE SHOULD WIN THE OSCAR FOR OUR DEATH SCENE. THANK GOODNESS YOU WERE ABLE TO GET THROUGH TO ME AND PLAY DEAD.
IT WAS THE GOODNESS OF YOUR OWN HEART THAT WON OUT, PETER. YOU COULD NEVER HARM ANYONE.
VERY CLEVER, ANGEL--

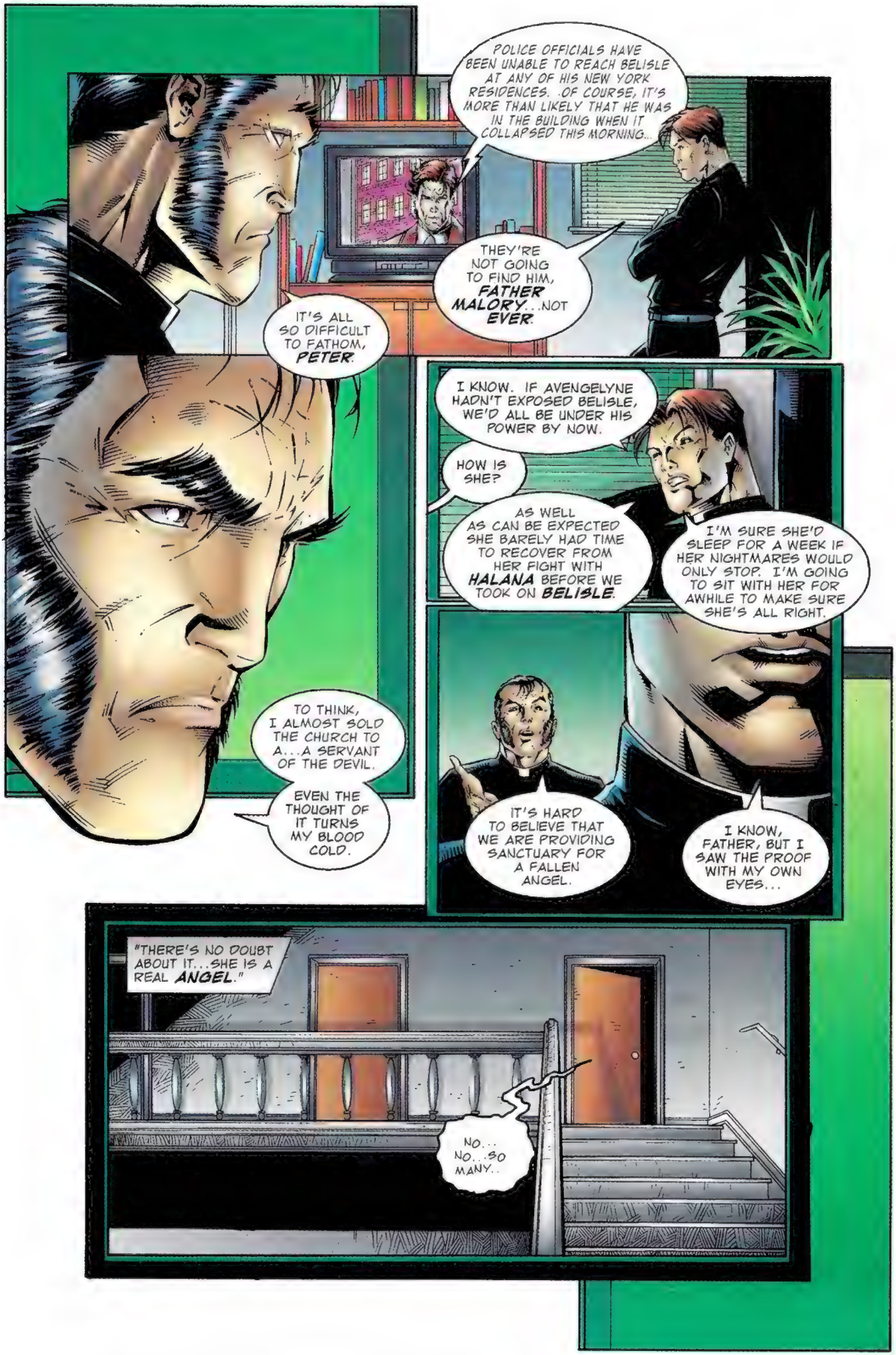
I ESPECIALLY LIKE HOW YOU USED OUR VERY NATURE AGAINST US. EACH OF MY SIX COMRADES FELL VICTIM TO THEIR OWN SINS.
BEING PRIDE, YOU NO DOUBT EXPECT ME TO DO THE SAME. BUT I DO NOT INTEND TO DIE BY YOUR HAND AND ROT IN PURGATORY LIKE MY BRETHREN.
I SHALL DEPART NOW--AND FIND SIX TO REPLACE THOSE WHO HAVE FALLEN AND TOGETHER WE SHALL RENEW THE LEGEND OF THE SEVEN DEADLY SINS.
AND WHEN WE ARE READY, WE SHALL RETURN FOR YOU, ANGEL.
STAY WELL UNTIL THEN.
KRAKA-BOOM!
PETER-- HE'S DESTROYING THE HOTEL!
WE'VE GOT TO HELP THESE PEOPLE GET OUT OF HERE.

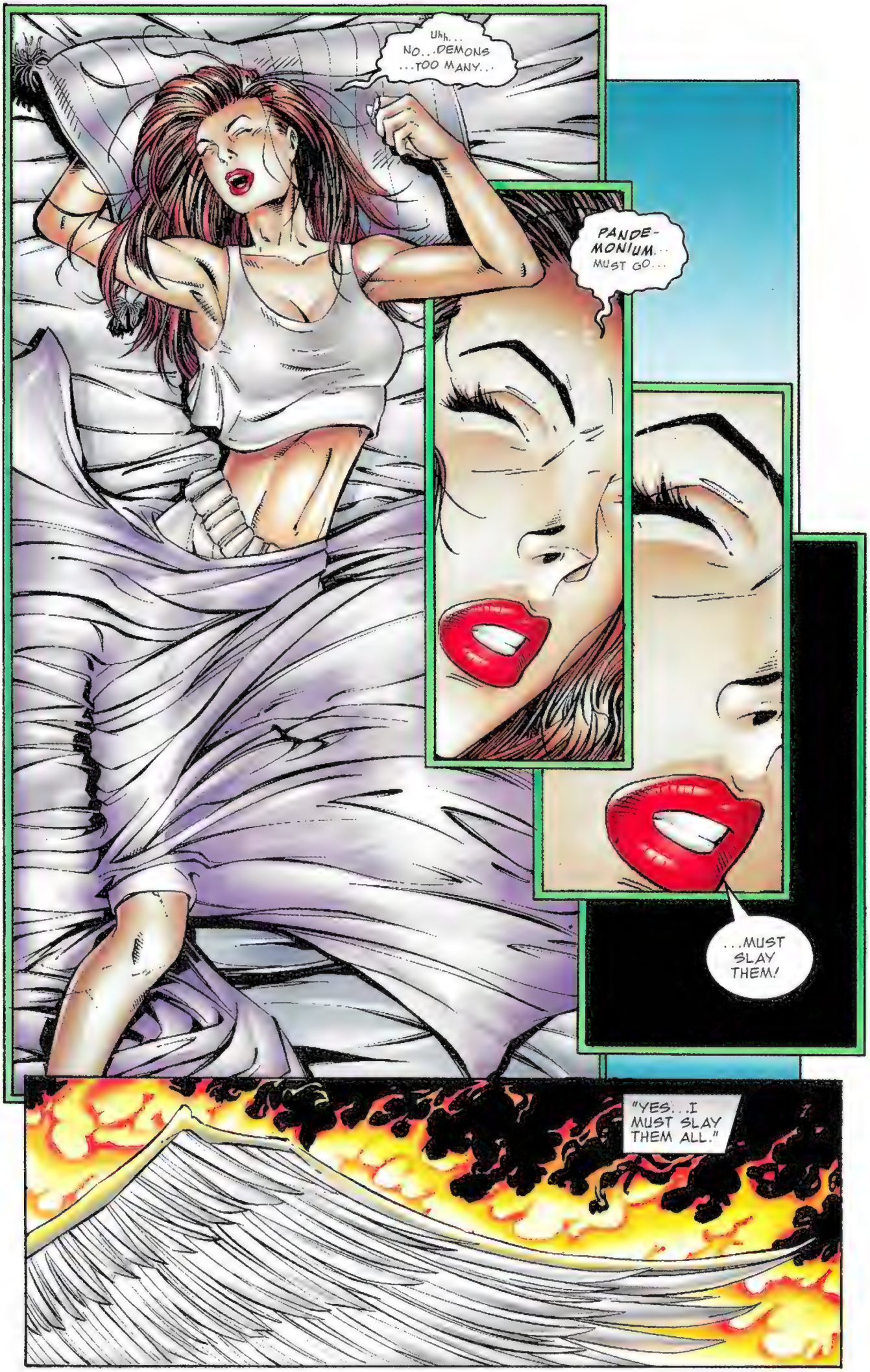
MINUTES LATER...
HURRY, THE BUILDING'S ABOUT TO COLLAPSE!
WA-THOOM!
THAT WAS CLOSE!
THANK GOODNESS MOST EVERYONE ESCAPED.
I KNOW-- THIS WAS TRULY THE MOST SINFUL PLACE ON EARTH, AND NOW THE CITY ITSELF HAS PAID THE ULTIMATE WAGE.
YES, BUT IT'S GOING TO TAKE MONTHS TO REBUILD LAS VEGAS.
YOU KNOW, PETER--I USED TO THINK THAT NEW YORK WAS A FRIGHTENING PLACE, BUT AFTER LAS VEGAS...
"AND THE VALE OF SIDDIM WAS FULL OF SLIMEPITS; AND THE KINGS OF SODOM AND GOMORRA FLED, AND FELL THERE; AND THEY THAT REMAINED FLED TO THE MOUNTAIN."
GENESIS 14: 10
NEXT UP--AVENGELYNE AND PETER RETURN TO NEW YORK IN
AVENGELYNE
--THE ON-GOING SERIES!!

AVENGELYNE

CHAPTER 9

THIS IS AN UNBELIEVABLE SIGHT, TRISHA--
NEWS
I'M REPORTING LIVE FROM MID-TOWN MANHATTAN AT THE SITE OF WORLD FAMOUS BELISLE TOWERS.
SO FAR, RESCUE TEAMS HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO REACH THE WRECKED BUILDING WHICH HAS SUNKEN SEVERAL MILES BENEATH THE STREET SURFACE.
AUTHORITIES ARE BLAMING THIS FREAK ACCIDENT ON FAULTY CONSTRUCTION, BUT SOME WITNESSES INSIST THAT THE BUILDING SIMPLY VANISHED BEFORE THEIR VERY EYES.
THE WHEREABOUTS OF ALEXANDER BELISLE, THE ENIGMATIC PHILANTHROPIST WHO HAD RECENTLY PURCHASED SEVERAL LOCAL CHURCHES, REMAINS A MYSTERY AT THIS TIME.
DO NOT CROS
THE TOWER, WHICH WAS THE HEADQUARTERS OF BILLIONAIRE ALEXANDER BELISLE AND HIS BNN WORLD NEWS NETWORK, COLLAPSED IN ON ITSELF AT AROUND SUNRISE THIS MORNING.*
*See Avengelyne--the original mini-series #3.


POLICE OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO REACH BELISLE AT ANY OF HIS NEW YORK RESIDENCES. .OF COURSE, IT'S MORE THAN LIKELY THAT HE WAS IN THE BUILDING WHEN IT COLLAPSED THIS MORNING...
THEY'RE NOT GOING TO FIND HIM, FATHER MALORY...NOT EVER.
IT'S ALL SO DIFFICULT TO FATHOM, PETER.
I KNOW. IF AVENGELYNE HADN'T EXPOSED BELISLE, WE'D ALL BE UNDER HIS POWER BY NOW.
HOW IS SHE?
AS WELL AS CAN BE EXPECTED SHE BARELY HAD TIME TO RECOVER FROM HER FIGHT WITH HALANA BEFORE WE TOOK ON BELISLE.
I'M SURE SHE'D SLEEP FOR A WEEK IF HER NIGHTMARES WOULD ONLY STOP. I'M GOING TO SIT WITH HER FOR AWHILE TO MAKE SURE SHE'S ALL RIGHT.
TO THINK, I ALMOST SOLD THE CHURCH TO A...A SERVANT OF THE DEVIL.
EVEN THE THOUGHT OF IT TURNS MY BLOOD COLD.
IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT WE ARE PROVIDING SANCTUARY FOR A FALLEN ANGEL.
I KNOW, FATHER, BUT I SAW THE PROOF WITH MY OWN EYES...
"THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT...SHE IS A REAL ANGEL."
NO... NO...SO MANY..


Uhh... NO...DEMONS ...TOO MANY...
PANDE-MONIUM... MUST GO...
...MUST SLAY THEM!
"YES...I MUST SLAY THEM ALL."

CURSED FIENDS! FOLLOWERS OF THE DRAGON!
YOU SHALL ALL TASTE THE SWORD OF THE RIGHTEOUS--THE SWORD EMPOWERED BY THE GOD YOUR VERY EXISTENCE PROFANES!
AND I SAW AN ANGEL COME DOWN FROM HEAVEN...AND HE LAID HOLD ON THE DRAGON, THAT OLD SERPENT, WHICH IS THE DEVIL...AND BOUND HIM FOR A THOUSAND YEARS. REVELATION 20: 1, 2
HA, HA, HA! GREETINGS, ANGEL, AND CONGRATULATIONS. YOU HAVE DONE WHAT NO OTHER BEFORE YOU HAS DONE. YOU HAVE PENETRATED THE VERY HEART OF PANDEMONIUM.
I BID YOU WELCOME.
WHO ARE YOU?!
YOU KNOW OF ME,
YOU MIGHT SAY I'M THE LEADER OF THE REVOLUTIONARIES...
...THE ONE YOU CALL THE DRAGON.
GASP! LUCIFER?!
YES, AVENGELYNE--THIS PLACE AND EVERYONE HERE IS UNDER MY DOMINION.
YOU MAY HAVE VANQUISHED MY SENTINELS, BUT IT IS QUITE ANOTHER MATTER TO OPPOSE ME IN BATTLE.
REST ASSURED, AVENGELYNE...
YOU WILL NEVER SEE HEAVEN AGAIN.

NO!
Oh.... ANOTHER DREAM.
ANOTHER NIGHT-MARE.
AVENGELYNE... WHAT IS IT? MORE BAD DREAMS?
YES, PETER--I'M SORRY I WOKE YOU.
JUST TELL ME WHAT'S TROUBLING YOU.
EVERY TIME I SLEEP...I AM HAUNTED BY DARK VISIONS. I SEE MYSELF AS I WAS IN HEAVEN... BUT I'M DIFFERENT SOMEHOW. WHEN I WAS A TRUE ANGEL, I NEVER KNEW FEAR OR PAIN, BUT IN MY DREAMS...I CAN BE HURT...
...I'M MORTAL.
AVENGELYNE, YOU'VE ONLY BEEN ON EARTH A FEW DAYS.
IT'S NATURAL THAT YOU'RE GOING TO FEEL SOME APPRE-HENSION ABOUT YOUR NEW LIFE.
MORTALITY AND PAIN...THOSE ARE THINGS WE MUST FACE EVERY DAY. IT'S PART OF BEING HUMAN.
THAT'S THE PROBLEM, PETER. I'M NOT HUMAN...NOR AM I AN ANGEL.
I HONESTLY DON'T KNOW WHAT I AM.

MEANWHILE... AT THE SITE OF THE BELISLE TOWERS.
ALMOST...
...FREE.
AT LAST... I HAVE REACHED THE SURFACE.
I FEAR THAT I AM THE ONLY SURVIVOR.
DAMN, LORD B'LIALE! IF ONLY HE HAD TAKEN MY COUNCIL AND DESTROYED AVENGELYNE WHEN HE HAD THE CHANCE.*
*See Avengelyne #3 for details.
THOUGH I FUNCTIONED AS HIS ADVISOR FOR YEARS, I NEVER COULD SWAY B'LIALE WHEN A WOMAN WAS INVOLVED.
FORTUNATELY, I AM NOT SO WEAK MINDED.
THE FALLEN ANGEL'S CHARMS WILL DO LITTLE TO DISSUADE THE WRATH OF GIDEON!
...THE CHURCH.
I AM SURE EVEN NOW SHE IS CELEBRATING HER VICTORY AGAINST US. AND I KNOW JUST WHERE TO FIND HER...

ST. AUGUSTINE...
A SHORT TIME LATER.
"AH, THE LAMBS SLEEP..."
"PERCHANCE TO DREAM."
WE CAN'T HAVE THAT!
I AM AFRAID THE SACRED COVENANT WILL HAVE TO BE BROKEN ON THIS OCCASION...
...THIS CHURCH WOULD NORMALLY BE OFF LIMITS FOR MY KIND, BUT TONIGHT IT SHALL SERVE AS OUR BATTLE-GROUND.
HMM?
YOU THERE!
GO AWAY.
Y--YES, SIR!
NOW, ANGEL...
...NOW LORD B'LIALE SHALL BE AVENGED.

"AVENGELYNE."
HUH?
"AVENGELYNE--WAKE UP!"
PETER?
IT WASN'T PETER. MUST HAVE BEEN ANOTHER DREAM.
"AVENGELYNE... I'M WAITING!"
WHO--?!
SOMETHING'S GOING ON...
...I KNOW I HEARD A VOICE CALL MY NAME.
NO ONE'S HERE.
MAYBE IT WAS FATHER MALORY.
FAST ASLEEP.
I'M JUST BEING SILLY...
...IT MUST HAVE BEEN ANOTHER DREAM.

IMAGINATION IS REMARKABLE.
NO WONDER HUMANS HAVE SUCH RESPECT FOR ITS POWER.
=gasp!=
PETER?
WHERE IS HE?
CLICK!
WHAT'S HAPPENED TO THE LIGHTS?
I SHOULD HAVE SENSED IT BEFORE. THE DARKNESS IN MY NIGHTMARES WAS NOT COMING FROM WITHIN...
...IT WAS INTRUDING FROM WITHOUT.
WE HAVE A VISITOR.

NO LIGHTS...NOT EVEN DOWN HERE.
THE SANCTUARY SEEMS UNDISTURBED.
PERHAPS PETER HEARD THE VOICE AND DECIDED TO GO FOR HELP.
WHOEVER IS BEHIND THIS CRAVES THE PROTECTION OF THE SHADOWS.
WHICH CAN ONLY MEAN ONE THING.
"FOR EVERY ONE THAT DOETH EVIL HATETH THE LIGHT, NEITHER COMETH TO THE LIGHT, LEST HIS DEEDS SHOULD BE REPROVED."
JOHN 3: 20
YES, THAT'S IT, I'M SURE HE'S SAFE--
=gasp!=

PETER!
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
WHAT'S THE MATTER, AVENGELYNE...
...DON'T YOU APPROVE OF MY RE-DECORATING?
WHO ARE YOU?! I THOUGHT ALL OF YOUR KIND HAD BEEN SENT BACK INTO THE BOWELS OF PURGATORY!
YOU MAY HAVE LOST YOUR WINGS...
SHRIPP!

BUT YOUR ARROGANCE IS CERTAINLY THAT OF AN ANGEL!
HOW COULD YOU DELUDE YOURSELF INTO THINKING THAT NONE OF US SURVIVED--THAT YOU WOULD NOT HAVE TO ATONE FOR B'LIALE'S EXILE!
I HOPED IN VAIN THAT YOU HAD ALL BEEN PURGED WITH YOUR MASTER'S SANCTUM!
KLANK
I'M AFRAID IT'S NOT GOING TO BE THAT EASY!
UHH!
MY STRENGTH IS DEPLETED...IF I'M NOT CAREFUL...
IT'S QUITE ANOTHER THING TO BE MADE OF FLESH AND BLOOD--
ISN'T IT, ANGEL?!

AND ALL SO POINTLESS--IF YOU HAD SIMPLY ACCEPTED B'LIALE'S OFFER TO JOIN US--
YOUR POWER WOULD BE EVEN GREATER THAN BEFORE!
HUH? MY LORD IN HEAVEN.
FATHER MALORY--HELP PETER!
STAY OUT OF THIS, PRIEST, UNLESS YOU WANT TO END UP LIKE YOUR FRIEND!
HUH?!
NICE TRY.

HE'S TOO STRONG...I CAN'T DO THIS ALONE.
FATHER MALORY--
FATHER, THE FIFTH SACRAMENT!
I UNDER-STAND!
I'M WARNING YOU, PRIEST, DO NOTHING, AND YOU MAY LIVE TO SEE THE DAWN!
AND WHAT OF YOU, AVENGELYNE--A FEW DAYS ON EARTH AND YOU'VE ALREADY SUCCUMBED TO THEIR RITUALS?!
NOW, FATHER!
AHKK!
RUN, MALORY--
RUN!

AHH! IT'S SOME KIND OF OIL-- YOU THINK YOU CAN SAVE YOURSELF BY BLINDING ME, ANGEL?!
NO, GIDEON--
BY BURNING YOU!
AAHHHHH!
EARRG!
IT'S GOOD I REMEMBERED THE SACRAMENTS PETER TAUGHT ME AS WE VENTURED DOWN THE STEPS INTO B'LIALE'S SANCTUM.
ESPECIALLY THE FIFTH ONE INVOLVING THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK OR DYING WITH HOLY OIL.
BUT I WONDER, HOW MANY MORE ARE OUT THERE LIKE GIDEON? HOW MANY MORE OF THE DRAGON'S FOLLOWERS MUST I FACE?
AND YET, PERHAPS THIS IS WHAT THE LORD OF HOSTS INTENDS FOR ME. PERHAPS THIS IS HOW I'LL EARN HIS FORGIVENESS...
...BY BRINGING FORTH HIS HEAVENLY VIRTUE TO DISPEL THE SHADOWS OF THIS WORLD.
LIGHT IS SOWN FOR THE RIGHTEOUS, AND GLADNESS FOR THE UPRIGHT IN HEART. PSALMS 97: 11
END

AVENGELYNE

CHAPTER 10

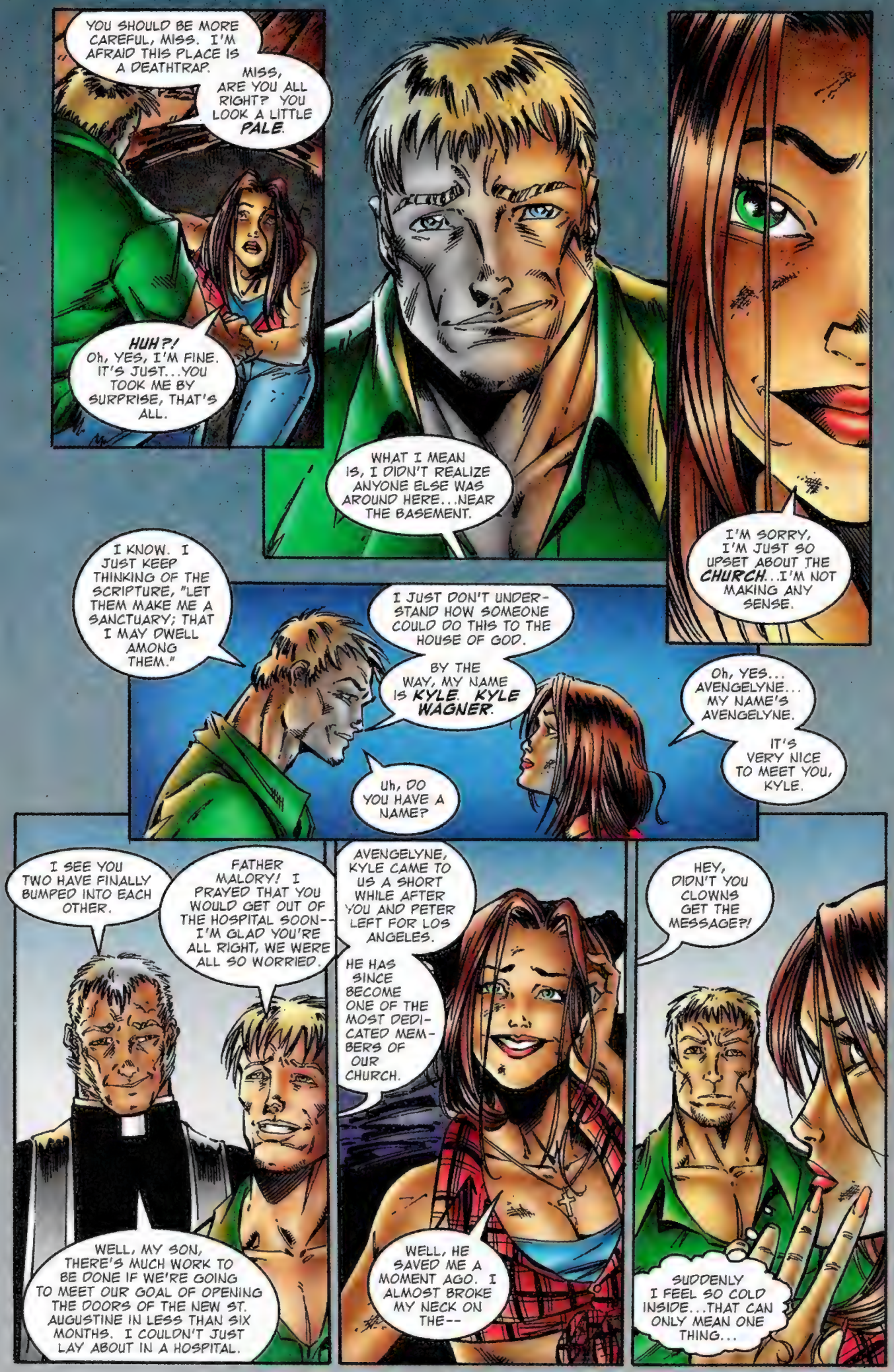
Oh, PETER--I NEVER THOUGHT I'D ACTUALLY SAY THIS...
...BUT I'M GLAD TO FINALLY BE BACK IN NEW YORK.
I'M NOT SURPRISED, AVENGELYNE. AFTER WHAT WE WENT THROUGH IN LOS ANGELES* AND LAS VEGAS**, NEW YORK IS GOING TO SEEM LIKE A VACATION.
SIR, HOW MUCH LONGER BEFORE WE GET TO ST. AUGUSTINE?
*Avengelyne: Power.
**Avengelyne: Deadly Sins.
PETER, THE CHURCH IS ONLY A FEW BLOCKS AWAY. WHY DON'T WE WALK THE REST OF THE WAY.
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE UP TO IT?
ABSOLUTELY! I THINK I COULD RUN ALL THE WAY HOME.
LISTEN, MAC, IF YOU CAN FIGURE OUT A WAY TO GET THROUGH THIS GRID LOCK, I'M OPEN TA SUGGESTIONS.
IT'S GOOD TO HEAR YOU REFER TO THE CHURCH AS A HOME. BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT IT IS-- IT'S YOUR HOME AND WE'RE ALL YOUR FAMILY.
I NEVER THOUGHT I COULD GET USED TO LIVING APART FROM HEAVEN.
BUT WHEN I'M AT THE CHURCH, I FEEL AS THOUGH I'M STILL WITH MY FATHER...THAT I'M STILL BASKING IN THE WARMTH OF HIS DIVINE LIGHT.
=gasp!=
NO...
NO!

"ST. AUGUSTINE!"
ALL THE EARTH SHALL BE DEVOURED WITH THE FIRE OF MY JEALOUSY.
ZEPHANIAH 3:8
911
MY GOOD-NESS--NO!
WHAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED?!
SIR, EXCUSE ME--WHAT HAPPENED HERE?!
IT'S TOO EARLY TO TELL, FATHER. WE GOT THE CALL ABOUT THIRTY MINUTES AGO, BUT BY THE TIME WE GOT HERE THE CHURCH WAS ALREADY ENGULFED.
I'M SORRY, FATHER.
WAS THERE ANYONE INSIDE?
IT LOOKS LIKE EVERYONE GOT OUT BEFORE WE ARRIVED.
WHERE'S FATHER MALORY? IS HE SAFE?
I DON'T KNOW IF THAT'S THE MAN YOU'RE LOOKING FOR, BUT WE HAD TO DRAG THE FATHER OVER THERE OUT OF THE SANCTUARY. HE WAS JUST STANDING THERE WATCHING IT BURN. I GUESS HE SORT OF... LOST IT.
WHY... WHY...?

FATHER MALORY...JACOB, IT'S PETER.
JACOB, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
PETER...
NO, PETER... I'M NOT ALL RIGHT. TWENTY YEARS, PETER... TRYING TO DO THE LORD'S WORK...TRYING TO BRING SOME GOOD TO THIS COMMUNITY...
...ONLY TO HAVE IT END LIKE THIS? I KNOW THE LORD DOES NOTHING WITHOUT PURPOSE, BUT I CAN THINK OF NO GOOD THAT CAN COME OF THIS. CAN YOU, PETER?
FATHER, WHAT HAPPENED?
I'M NOT CERTAIN. IT ALL HAPPENED SO QUICKLY. SOME MEN CAME TO THE SANCTUARY--THEY SAT IN THE PEWS AND BEGAN TO PRAY. NOTHING SEEMED OUT OF THE ORDINARY.
BUT SOMETHING WAS WRONG... THEY SEEMED...
I'M SORRY, PETER, IT'S DIFFICULT TO DESCRIBE-- I SAW THEM ONLY FOR A SECOND. BUT ACCORDING TO FATHER GRIGGS, THESE MEN INTENTIONALLY SET FIRE TO THE SANCTUARY. HE TRIED TO STOP THEM, BUT HE COULDN'T-- THEY WERE MADMEN.
BY THE TIME I REALIZED WHAT WAS GOING ON...IT WAS TOO LATE. THE CHURCH WAS IN FLAMES.
AVENGELYNE, HE'S IN A STATE OF SHOCK. I'M GOING TO RIDE WITH HIM IN THE AMBULANCE.
OF COURSE, PETER. I'M GOING TO STAY HERE--AND LOOK AFTER FATHER GRIGGS AND THE OTHERS.
"ALL RIGHT, AVENGELYNE-- JUST BE CAREFUL. IN CASE THE MEN WHO DID THIS RETURN."
THE MONSTERS WHO STARTED THE FIRE WERE PROBABLY DEMONS MASQUERADING IN HUMAN FORM.
IT'S NOT FAIR. ALL THIS DEMONIC FILTH IS ALLOWED TO ROAM THE EARTH --DESTROYING ANYTHING THAT IS GOOD, YET I HAVE BEEN STRIPPED OF MY POWERS--LEFT WITH ONLY ENOUGH STRENGTH TO WARD OFF THEIR ATTACKS.
IF ONLY I WERE STILL AN ANGEL AGAIN... I WOULD STRIKE WITH RIGHTEOUS ANGER--AND MAKE THEM PAY FOR WHAT THEY'VE DONE HERE.

JUST LOOK AT HER.
HOW PATHETIC!
THE GANG'S ALL HERE AND THEY DIDN'T INVITE ME. DON'T THEY REALIZE THAT IT'S JUST NOT A PARTY WITHOUT DEVLIN?
I BELIEVE SHE IS GOING TO CRY, EVITZ.
LORD EVITZ. I WOULD APPRECIATE A MODICUM OF RESPECT, LORD B'LIALE. THOUGH OUR GREAT HOUSES HAVE WARRED AGAINST ONE ANOTHER FOR YEARS, I THINK WE CAN ABANDON OUR HOSTILITIES IN LIGHT OF THIS CRISIS.
I MEANT NO OFFENSE TO YOU OR YOUR STATION, LORD EVITZ.
SINCE IT WAS I WHO ARRANGED THIS SUMMIT MEETING AND CALLED FOR A TRUCE BETWEEN THE GREAT DEMON LORDS AND THEIR HOUSES, I THINK MY INTENTIONS SHOULD BE CLEAR.
OUR PETTY FEUDING AND BLOOD WARS WILL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL WE HAVE DEALT WITH THE GREATER THREAT TO US ALL... AVENGELYNE.
SHE IS INDEED FORMIDABLE. IN LOS ANGELES, I WITNESSED AVENGELYNE TROUNCE A CADRE OF MY FIERCEST WARRIORS*-- UNARMED.
*In Avengelyne: Power #2--Matt.
I AM AWARE OF HER PROWESS AS A WARRIOR. SHE WAS A LIVING LEGEND IN HEAVEN--CONCEIVED TO BE ONE OF THE MOST FEARSOME ANGELS IN THE WARHOST. GOD'S EXPERIMENT IN FEROCITY--HIS "LIGHTNING DRESSED AS SNOW."
BEFORE HER FALL FROM HEAVEN, EVERYONE FEARED HER--EVEN HER OWN KIND.
THEN WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST?
SIMPLY DISPATCHING DEMON AFTER DEMON TO CHALLENGE AVENGELYNE IN COMBAT HAS PLAYED RIGHT INTO HER HAND, SO I PROPOSE WE USE A DIFFERENT WEAPON.
IT IS MY BELIEF THAT LIKE US, AVENGELYNE IS FLAWED. IF SHE WERE NOT, SHE'D STILL BE IN HEAVEN, BUT SHE'S AMONG US ON EARTH.
BUT SHE DOES NOT CRAVE POWER, SO WHAT IS THIS FLAW?
I BELIEVE IT'S HER HEART, LORD EVITZ.
HER PASSION IS HER ACHILLES HEEL, AND THE ONLY WEAPON WE NEED TO DESTROY HER.
CLEVER, FATHER*... VERY CLEVER.
BUT YOU HAVE UNDERESTIMATED AVENGELYNE IN THE PAST, AS HAVE I. YOU MIGHT FIND THAT HER GREATEST WEAKNESS IS ALSO HER GREATEST STRENGTH.
*Check out the Devlin one-shot for more on his origin--Matt again.

TWO DAYS LATER.
WHAT A MESS!
IT'S GOING TO TAKE US WEEKS TO SORT THROUGH THIS DEBRIS.
I KNOW IT'S DIFFICULT, SISTER JANICE, BUT WE CAN'T LOSE FAITH. SOMEHOW WE'LL FIND A WAY TO REBUILD ST. AUGUSTINE--THIS COMMUNITY CAN'T SURVIVE WITHOUT IT.
I FEAR IT WILL TAKE US LESS TIME THAN THAT TO REALIZE HOW VERY LITTLE IS SALVAGEABLE FROM THIS DISASTER.
THE FEELING OF BOTH RAPTURE...
THE BASEMENT.
I REMEMBER WHEN I FIRST CAME DOWN HERE*. IT WAS ONLY MY SECOND NIGHT ON EARTH AND JANICE HAD BROUGHT ME DOWN HERE TO PICK OUT SOME CLOTHES.
...AND SORROW.
AND IT WAS HERE THAT I FIRST SAW THE KNIGHT'S SWORD--THE HOLY WEAPON WHICH I WOULD LATER WIELD AS THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT.
SO MANY MEMORIES.
BUT NOW THEY ARE JUST PAINFUL REMINDERS. IT'S LITTLE WONDER HUMANS SPEAK OF MEMORIES WITH SUCH... AMBIVALENCE. YES, I BELIEVE THAT IS THE RIGHT WORD...
*Avengelyne #2--Matt.
HUH?!
HOLD ON--I'VE GOT YOU!


YOU SHOULD BE MORE CAREFUL, MISS. I'M AFRAID THIS PLACE IS A DEATHTRAP.
MISS, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? YOU LOOK A LITTLE PALE.
HUH?! Oh, YES, I'M FINE. IT'S JUST...YOU TOOK ME BY SURPRISE, THAT'S ALL.
WHAT I MEAN IS, I DIDN'T REALIZE ANYONE ELSE WAS AROUND HERE...NEAR THE BASEMENT.
I'M SORRY, I'M JUST SO UPSET ABOUT THE CHURCH...I'M NOT MAKING ANY SENSE.
I KNOW. I JUST KEEP THINKING OF THE SCRIPTURE, "LET THEM MAKE ME A SANCTUARY; THAT I MAY DWELL AMONG THEM."
I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW SOMEONE COULD DO THIS TO THE HOUSE OF GOD.
BY THE WAY, MY NAME IS KYLE. KYLE WAGNER.
Uh, DO YOU HAVE A NAME?
Oh, YES... AVENGELYNE... MY NAME'S AVENGELYNE.
IT'S VERY NICE TO MEET YOU, KYLE.
I SEE YOU TWO HAVE FINALLY BUMPED INTO EACH OTHER.
FATHER MALORY! I PRAYED THAT YOU WOULD GET OUT OF THE HOSPITAL SOON-- I'M GLAD YOU'RE ALL RIGHT, WE WERE ALL SO WORRIED.
WELL, MY SON, THERE'S MUCH WORK TO BE DONE IF WE'RE GOING TO MEET OUR GOAL OF OPENING THE DOORS OF THE NEW ST. AUGUSTINE IN LESS THAN SIX MONTHS. I COULDN'T JUST LAY ABOUT IN A HOSPITAL.
AVENGELYNE, KYLE CAME TO US A SHORT WHILE AFTER YOU AND PETER LEFT FOR LOS ANGELES.
HE HAS SINCE BECOME ONE OF THE MOST DEDICATED MEMBERS OF OUR CHURCH.
WELL, HE SAVED ME A MOMENT AGO. I ALMOST BROKE MY NECK ON THE--
HEY, DIDN'T YOU CLOWNS GET THE MESSAGE?!
SUDDENLY I FEEL SO COLD INSIDE...THAT CAN ONLY MEAN ONE THING...

"...DEMONS."
WHAT DO YOU THINK'S THE MATTER WITH THESE @%$%HOLES, PEZ? THEIR FREAKIN' CHURCH GETS TORCHED AND THEY STILL DON'T GET THE FREAKIN' MESSAGE THAT THEY AIN'T WANTED AROUND HERE!
THERE MUST BE SOMETHIN' WRONG WITH 'EM, MAN--DRINKIN' TOO MUCH WINE BETWEEN CONFESSIONS OR SOMETHIN'!
I RECOGNIZE YOU! YOU WERE IN THE SANCTUARY THE NIGHT OF THE FIRE!
COOL IT, "POPE JOHN," OR WHATEVER YOUR NAME IS.
YEAH, WE WERE THERE. AN' WE THOUGHT YOU GOT THE MESSAGE. WE DON'T NEED OR WANT NO FREAKIN' CHURCH AROUND HERE. THIS IS OUR TURF.
Y--YOU ADMIT YOU STARTED THE FIRE?! I'M CALLING THE POLICE!
YOU AIN'T CALLIN' NOBODY, GRANDPA!
MALORY AND THE OTHERS DON'T REALIZE HOW MUCH DANGER THEY'RE IN. IF THESE MEN INVOKE THEIR DEMONIC POWERS...
I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING BEFORE SOMEONE GETS--
OH, NO! KYLE, DON'T BE STUPID!
NOW SEE HERE, I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOUR PROBLEM IS, BUT IF YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS ARE THE ONES WHO BURNT ST. AUGUSTINE, YOU WILL PAY FOR YOUR CRIME.
AS THE WORD SAYS, "I WILL JUDGE THEE ACCORDING TO THY WAYS, AND WILL RECOMPENSE THEE FOR ALL THINE ABOMINATIONS."
NO KIDDING--
WELL LET ME "RECOMPENSE THEE" FOR THY BIG, FREAKIN' MOUTH!
WAK!

KYLE!
I AM THE REASON THESE FIENDS DESTROYED THE CHURCH AND NOW THIS!
WILL IT EVER END?!
--OR MUST THE SWORD DEVOUR FOREVER?!
THAK!
UGH!
WHAT THE @!#%!
AVENGELYNE, THESE MEN ARE DANGEROUS--LET ME HANDLE THIS.
I APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERN, KYLE, BUT I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF.
THUD!
KYLE'S THE ONE WHO SHOULD BE CAREFUL. THE DEMONS ARE NOT AS STRONG IN THEIR HUMAN FORM, BUT THEY'RE STILL FORMIDABLE.
HEY!
LOOK AT WHAT I GOT HERE --MOTHER TERESA NEVER LOOKED THIS GOOD!
LET'S TEACH HER A LESSON, MAN!

NO ONE CAN HEAR US, PEZ--WE CAN DROP THE ACT.
SO AVENGELYNE, WELCOME HOME. LORD B'LIALE WAITED UNTIL HE KNEW YOU WERE BACK BEFORE HE HAD US TORCH THE DUMP.
311
YOU SHOULD'VE HEEDED THE WARNING AND LEFT NEW YORK IMMEDIATELY. BUT SINCE YOU DIDN'T, ME AN' PEZ GET TO DO OUR THING...
...IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.
LET HER GO!
SMAK!
YOU'RE FRIEND'S GONNA END UP AS WORM GRUB IF HE KEEPS IT UP! TELL HIM TO BACK OFF, OR I'LL TWIST YOUR ARM OFF!
UHHH!
KLUD!
I HOPE YOU LIKE JAIL, PUNK-- BECAUSE THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE GOING TO BE SPENDING A GREAT DEAL OF TIME!

I SHOULD GO AFTER THEM!
NO, KYLE-- THE POLICE ARE COMING-- LET THEM HANDLE THIS!
FOAD
BETTER TO HAVE THE DEMONS ESCAPE THAN USE THEIR POWERS AGAINST THESE PEOPLE.
BUT I WILL MAKE B'LIALE PAY FOR WHAT HE'S DONE HERE.
KYLE, THANK YOU FOR COMING TO MY AID--IT WAS VERY BRAVE.
WELL, I'M NOT A MAN GIVEN TO VIOLENCE, BUT I COULDN'T STAND BY AND LET THEM HARM YOU, SO I PRAYED TO THE LORD FOR THE COURAGE TO ACT.
WE SHOULDN'T FEEL HATRED FOR THESE PEOPLE, THOUGH I KNOW IT'S DIFFICULT. WE SHOULD PRAY THAT THEIR LOST SOULS FIND THE REDEMPTION THEY SO DESPERATELY NEED.
BESIDES, WE HAVE OTHER MATTERS TO ATTEND TO...LIKE REBUILDING OUR CHURCH.

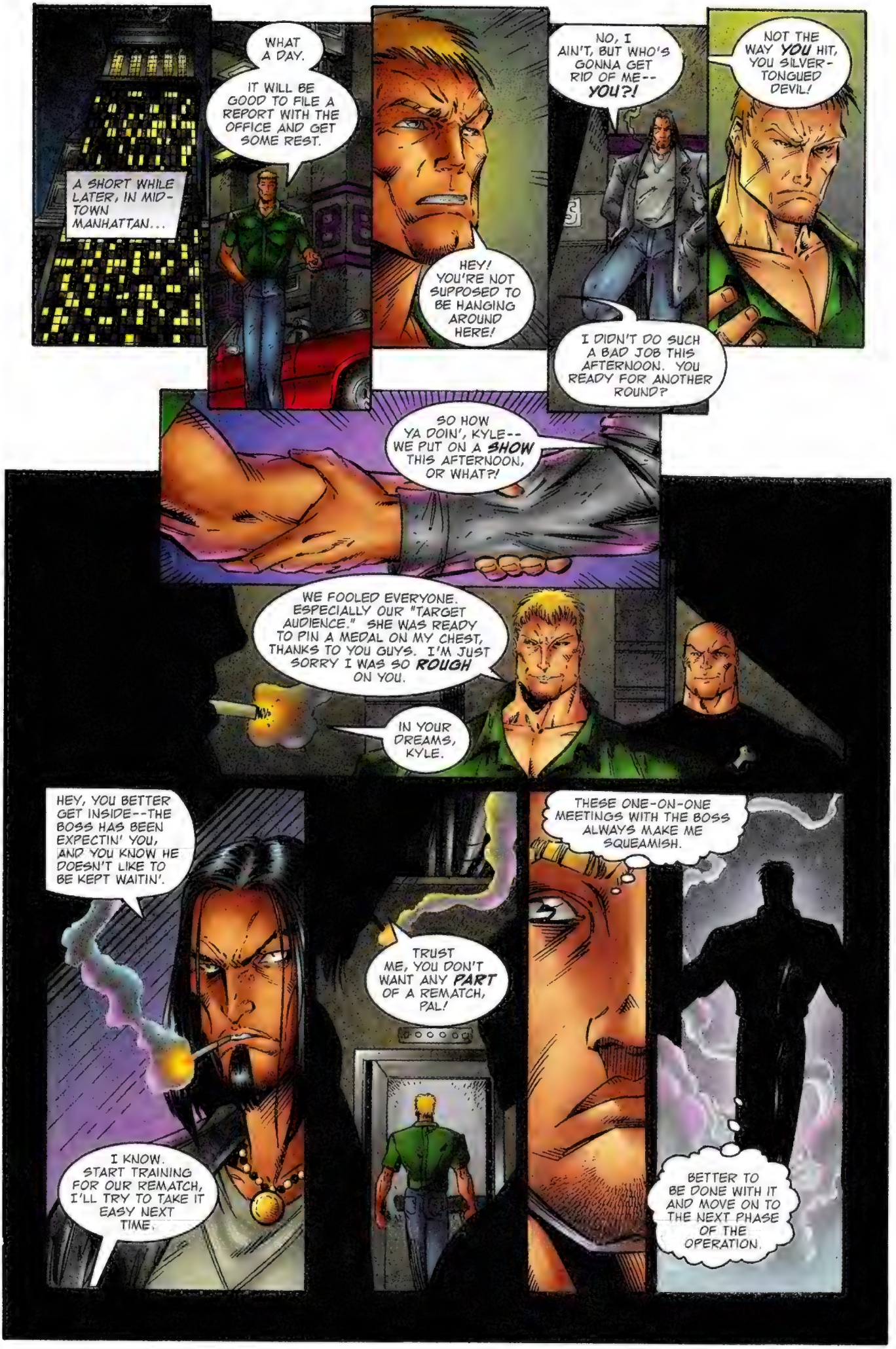
SEVERAL DAYS LATER... AT THE REMAINS OF ST. AUGUSTINE.
FATHER MALORY, MAY I COME IN?
Y-YES, PETER, DO COME IN--I NEED TO SPEAK WITH YOU.
ALL THE TENTS ARE UP, SIR. THE TEMPORARY CONVENT IS IN PLACE. I THINK WE'RE DONE FOR THE NIGHT, SIR.
THAT'S GOOD NEWS, PETER...GOOD NEWS, INDEED.
IS SOMETHING WRONG, SIR, YOU SEEM... PREOCCUPIED.
DO I? I SUPPOSE I AM.
THERE IS A MATTER WE NEED TO DISCUSS, PETER --A MATTER OF GREAT IMPORT, IT'S JUST...GOING TO BE SO DIFFICULT.
FATHER MALORY, WHAT-EVER THE PROBLEM, SIR, TOGETHER WE CAN SOLVE IT. JUST TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON.
VERY WELL. I'VE MADE A DECISION, PETER--A DECISION THAT WILL AFFECT EVERY MEMBER OF OUR CONGREGATION.
WHAT IS IT?
FATHER MALORY?
PETER, COME WITH ME-- IT'S BETTER EVERYONE HEARS THIS. I WISH TO SAY IT ONLY ONCE.
BUT, JACOB--
THIS ISN'T LIKE HIM TO BE SO MYSTERIOUS. I WONDER...
I PRAY THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH AVENGELYNE.

HELLO, MY FRIENDS. I'M GLAD YOU COULD STAY THIS LATE-- I KNOW YOU'RE ALL TIRED, BUT THERE IS AN IMPORTANT MATTER TO BE HEARD. I'LL TRY TO BE BRIEF.
AS MOST OF YOU KNOW, MONEY HAS NEVER COME EASILY TO US. DESPITE THE WEALTH OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES AND ABROAD, ST. AUGUSTINE HAS NEVER RECEIVED THE FUNDING I BELIEVE IT DESERVES... DESERVED.
IN HINDSIGHT, IT IS FORTUNATE THAT I WAS UNABLE TO CONCLUDE THIS ARRANGEMENT...BEFORE MR. BELISLE'S UNTIMELY... DEMISE.
=ahem=
AT ANY RATE, WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS THAT ONCE AGAIN THE VATICAN HAS SENT A MESSAGE TO US--
THAT THIS COMMUNITY IS NOT WORTHY OF ITS CONTINUED SUPPORT.
AS A RESULT, WE HAVE HAD TO BE RATHER INVENTIVE IN OUR FUND RAISING EFFORTS. IN FACT, IN A RECENT MOMENT OF DESPERATION, AN OFFER WAS ACCEPTED FROM ALEXANDER BELISLE TO PURCHASE ST. AUGUSTINE.
LAST EVENING, I RECEIVED A COMMUNIQUE FROM ARCHBISHOP MARDER IN RESPONSE TO MY REQUEST FOR FUNDS TO REBUILD ST. AUGUSTINE.
THAT REQUEST, MY FRIENDS...HAS BEEN DENIED.
=gasp!=
BUT, FATHER MALORY--
WAIT, KYLE, THERE IS MORE.
LET ME SAY THAT I SHARE YOUR ASTONISHMENT. THE REBUILDING OF ST. AUGUSTINE IS VITAL TO THIS COMMUNITY, WHICH SUFFERS FROM ONE OF THE HIGHEST CRIME AND UNEMPLOYMENT RATES IN THE CITY--NOT TO MENTION, THE EVER GROWING HOMELESS PROBLEM.
ALL NIGHT, I PRAYED FOR THE LORD'S GUIDANCE IN THIS MATTER...AND IN A MOMENT THAT I CAN ONLY DESCRIBE AS AN EPIPHANY... I HAVE COME TO AN EXTRAORDINARY DECISION.
MY FRIENDS, I HAVE ASKED THE CHURCH TO RELEASE ME FROM MY VOWS AND OFFICE, SO I MAY REBUILD ST. AUGUSTINE ON MY OWN.

≠gasp≠
I WAS
PROBED
FATHER MALORY, YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS!
REMEMBER JOHN 3:16, "FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD, THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, THAT WHOSOEVER BELIEVETH IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH, BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE."
JACOB, NO!
OF COURSE I CAN'T, AND NEVER WOULD PRESUME TO DO SO.
THERE ARE MANY OTHER CHURCHES THROUGHOUT THE CITY, MY FRIENDS, AND I'M SURE YOU'LL BE ABLE TO FIND A SUITABLE REPLACEMENT SHOULD YOU CHOOSE THAT PATH. BUT SHOULD YOU NOT, I URGE YOU TO JOIN ME IN THIS UNDERTAKING.
KYLE MAKES SENSE TO ME, THE WORD SAYS "THERE IS NO POWER BUT GOD!"
YEAH, IF THE CHURCH WON'T STAND BY US, WHY SHOULD WE BE LOYAL TO THEM?
MAY I SPEAK, FATHER? MY FRIENDS, I AM KYLE WAGNER, AND I THINK FATHER MALORY SHOULD BE APPLAUDED FOR HIS COURAGE. HE'S RISKING EVERYTHING FOR THIS COMMUNITY--TO BRING THIS CHURCH BACK, AND I THINK WE SHOULD SUPPORT HIM.
I TOO, AM A CATHOLIC, AND HAVE LIVED AS ONE MY ENTIRE LIFE. BUT THE PATH TO GOD IS A JOURNEY OF THE SPIRIT, AND CANNOT BE CONTROLLED BY THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, OR ANY CHURCH.
LOOK AT THEM, I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY'RE HAPPY ABOUT THIS!
Oh, PETER-- I THINK KYLE'S WORDS WE'RE INSPIRATIONAL. SERVICE TO MY FATHER IS NOT ABOUT WEALTH AND POSITION, IT'S ABOUT FAITH. YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT.
I WAS RAISED IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH ALL MY LIFE, FATHER MALORY. YOU CAN'T JUST DECIDE THIS FOR US!
STERN
RULE
SHORTLY...
KYLE, EVERYONE WAS MOVED BY WHAT YOU SAID. I THINK IT REALLY MADE A DIFFERENCE.
I JUST SPOKE FROM MY HEART, AVENGELYNE.

WELL, THAT'S IT...
THE WORST IS OVER NOW... ALMOST.
ALL MY ADULT LIFE, THIS COLLAR HAS BEEN AROUND MY NECK. NOT ONLY AS A SYMBOL OF MY OFFICE, BUT AS A SYMBOL OF MY FAITH--MY DEVOTION TO THE CHURCH.
NOW IT IS A RELIC.
JUST LIKE ME.
JACOB, MAY I SPEAK WITH YOU?
I'M TIRED, PETER. COULD THIS WAIT UNTIL TOMORROW?
NO, SIR, I'M SORRY-- IT CAN'T!
HOW, MALORY?! HOW COULD YOU MAKE THIS DECISION WITHOUT CONSULTING ME FIRST?!
I ALREADY KNEW YOUR HEART, PETER.
IT IS WITH THE CHURCH, IT ALWAYS HAS BEEN AND ALWAYS WILL BE. THE CHURCH HAS BEEN GOOD TO ME, BUT LEAVING THESE PEOPLE WITHOUT A PLACE OF WORSHIP IS WRONG.
BUT YOU, PETER...YOU HAVE TIME TO EXPLORE CATHOLICISM, TO SEE IF IT HOLDS THE ANSWERS YOU SEEK. YOU'VE SACRIFICED MUCH TO GET HERE, INCLUDING YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR FATHER.
THIS DECISION WOULD HAVE BEEN TOO PAINFUL FOR YOU.
SO YOU WERE DOING THIS FOR ME, IS THAT IT, JACOB?
I WAS DOING THIS FOR THE COMMUNITY.
THERE ARE MANY OTHER CATHOLIC CHURCHES IN THE CITY, BUT THEY ARE MANY MILES DISTANT, AND MOST OF OUR CONGREGATION CAN'T EVEN AFFORD A SUBWAY RIDE--SO THEY'LL SIMPLY STOP GOING TO CHURCH ALTOGETHER.
IT IS THEIR SOULS I'M FIGHTING TO SAVE, PETER. CAN YOU UNDERSTAND THAT?

I CAN'T GET OVER WHAT YOU DID IN THERE, KYLE. IT WAS LIKE YOU REMOVED A BLINDFOLD FROM THEIR EYES, AND DEMANDED THAT THEY LOOK AT MALORY'S PROPOSAL WITH AN OPEN HEART.
IT WAS WONDERFUL.
I APPRECIATE THE COMPLIMENT, BUT IT WAS THE POWER OF THE WORD THAT MOVED THEM. I WAS SIMPLY THE LORD'S MESSENGER.
I FELT THE SAME WAY THE MOMENT I WALKED THROUGH THE DOORS. IT...WAS A VERY SPECIAL PLACE.
IT'S HARD TO EXPLAIN WHY ST. AUGUSTINE HAS BECOME SO IMPORTANT TO ME. EVEN THOUGH I'D ONLY BEEN WORSHIPPING THERE A SHORT TIME, I JUST FELT THIS OVERWHELMING SENSE OF BELONGING.
I GUESS WE HAVE A LOT IN COMMON.
YES, YES, I THINK WE DO.
WELL, I HAVE TO GO. BUT I'LL BE BACK TOMORROW. GOODNIGHT, AVENGELYNE.
GOODNIGHT.
HE HAS SUCH A STRONG FAITH IN MY FATHER AND HIS TEACHINGS. I THOUGHT ONLY PRIESTS HAD SUCH CONVICTIONS. HE'S SIMPLY...
...REMARKABLE.


A SHORT WHILE LATER, IN MID-TOWN MANHATTAN...
WHAT A DAY.
IT WILL BE GOOD TO FILE A REPORT WITH THE OFFICE AND GET SOME REST.
HEY! YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO BE HANGING AROUND HERE!
NO, I AIN'T, BUT WHO'S GONNA GET RID OF ME-- YOU?!
NOT THE WAY YOU HIT, YOU SILVER-TONGUED DEVIL!
I DIDN'T DO SUCH A BAD JOB THIS AFTERNOON. YOU READY FOR ANOTHER ROUND?
SO HOW YA DOIN', KYLE-- WE PUT ON A SHOW THIS AFTERNOON, OR WHAT?!
WE FOOLED EVERYONE. ESPECIALLY OUR "TARGET AUDIENCE." SHE WAS READY TO PIN A MEDAL ON MY CHEST, THANKS TO YOU GUYS. I'M JUST SORRY I WAS SO ROUGH ON YOU.
IN YOUR DREAMS, KYLE.
HEY, YOU BETTER GET INSIDE--THE BOSS HAS BEEN EXPECTIN' YOU, AND YOU KNOW HE DOESN'T LIKE TO BE KEPT WAITIN'.
I KNOW. START TRAINING FOR OUR REMATCH, I'LL TRY TO TAKE IT EASY NEXT TIME.
TRUST ME, YOU DON'T WANT ANY PART OF A REMATCH, PAL!
THESE ONE-ON-ONE MEETINGS WITH THE BOSS ALWAYS MAKE ME SQUEAMISH.
BETTER TO BE DONE WITH IT AND MOVE ON TO THE NEXT PHASE OF THE OPERATION.

GREETINGS, LORD B'LIALE!
WELCOME, KYLE. I'VE BEEN INFORMED THAT ALL WENT WELL THIS AFTERNOON. GIVE ME A DETAILED ACCOUNT OF THE PROCEEDINGS.
WELL, MILORD, SOMETHING UNEXPECTED HAS HAPPENED, BUT I BELIEVE IT MAY BE TO OUR BENEFIT. FATHER MALORY ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT HE PLANS TO LEAVE THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AND REBUILD ST. AUGUSTINE ON HIS OWN.
I PUBLICLY SUPPORTED MALORY WHICH SEEMED TO STRENGTHEN MY POSITION WITH AVENGELYNE.
EXCELLENT, KYLE. YOU WERE THE PERFECT CHOICE FOR THIS MISSION--YOU SHALL SUCCEED WHERE OTHERS HAVE FAILED, INCLUDING MY OWN BASTARD SON, DEVLIN. IT'S GOOD THAT I ORDERED YOU TO BEFRIEND MALORY WHILE AVENGELYNE WAS STILL OUT OF TOWN. NOW YOU HAVE IMMEDIATE CREDIBILITY WITH HER AND THE YOUNG PRIEST.
ACTUALLY, SIR, PETER CLIFTON MAY BE A PROBLEM.
INDEED? THEN TREAT HIM AS WE DO ALL PROBLEMS, KYLE--WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT, ELIMINATE HIM.
YES, SIR.

TWO NIGHTS LATER.
I'M SO GLAD WE COULD TAKE A BREAK FROM SORTING THROUGH THE DEBRIS OF THE CHURCH--IT'S SUCH A DAUNTING TASK.
ALL OF OUR HARD WORK WILL BE REWARDED WHEN FIRST WE PRAY IN OUR NEW CHURCH.
SO HOW ARE THINGS GOING--I WISH I COULD HAVE COME TODAY, BUT MY JOB CALLED ME IN AT THE LAST MINUTE.
NOT SO GOOD. MALORY IS GOING AHEAD WITH HIS PLAN TO BE RE-LEASED FROM HIS VOWS, BUT POOR PETER...HE'S STILL STRUGGLING WITH IT. HE SEEMS SO LOST NOW, LIKE HIS ENTIRE WORLD HAS SHATTERED.
EVERYONE DOES TO SOME EXTENT. BUT PETER SEEMS... UNUSUALLY FORLORN FOR A PRIEST. I HONESTLY GET THE FEELING HE DOESN'T LIKE ME.
1991
I KNOW THAT FEELING.
PETER? NO, YOU MUST BE MISTAKEN. HE'S VERY EASY TO GET ALONG WITH.
HM? WELL MAYBE IT'S JUST ME. SHALL WE GO?

THIS EVENING WAS WONDERFUL, KYLE.
WELL, IT WAS YOUR COMPANY THAT MADE THE EVENING SO SPECIAL, AVENGELYNE.
THE DARKSIDE OF MIDNIGHT
YOU'RE SWEET.
TELL ME, AVENGELYNE. ARE YOU...SEEING ANYONE RIGHT NOW?
SEEING ANYONE?
YOU KNOW, DATING?
OH! WELL-- I...
KYLE, GET OUT OF THE CAR RIGHT NOW!
CRASH!
AHAHAHAHA! SORRY TO SPOIL THE FUN!
ARRG!

WHAT'S THE MATTER, FRIEND? DID I INTERRUPT WHILE YOU WERE PUTTIN' THE MOVES ON THE ANGEL?
HEH. LOOKS LIKE "DON JUAN'S" OUT OF THE LINE UP. I'D BETTER CHECK ON AVENGELYNE--MAKE SURE I DIDNT SHAKE HER UP TO BAD.
WHERE'D SHE GO?!
I'M HERE, FIEND!
EH?!
SO WHO'S YOUR MASTER, DEMON--B'LIALE, EVITZ, OR HAS PRIDE RETURNED WITH A NEW CADRE OF SEVEN DEADLY SINS?
NONE OF THE ABOVE. I'M FREELANCE. AN INTERESTED PARTY HAS SOLICITED MY SERVICES.
I SEE. IN THE END IT REALLY DOESN'T MATTER, DOES IT?

YOUR KIND IS ALL THE SAME ANYWAY!
WE AIN'T ALL ROTTEN TO THE CORE, LADY. BUT YOU'RE GONNA BRING OUT MY BAD SIDE, IF YOU DON'T KNOCK IT OFF!
KUD!

KRAK!
IT IS YOU WHO ATTACK ME, DEVIL!
I WISH ONLY TO LIVE OUT MY EXILE ON EARTH IN PEACE, BUT YOUR KIND WON'T ALLOW THAT!
JUST SHUT UP AND LISTEN! MY EMPLOYER SENT ME HERE TO WARN YOU!
WARN ME-- YOU CALL ATTACKING ME IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT A WARNING?!
SPLAT!
THAT WAS JUST TO GET YOUR ATTENTION!
AND NOW THAT I'VE GOT IT, JUST CALM DOWN AND LISTEN--YOU THINK YOU CAN DO THAT?!
EVERY WORD THAT YOU SPEAK IS A LIE-- I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ANY OF IT!

OH, YOU'LL WANT TO HEAR THIS-- IT CONCERNS YOU AND THAT--
LET GO OF HER NOW!
"OUR FATHER, WHICH ART IN HEAVEN, HALLOWED BY THY NAME..."
YEAH, YEAH--"THY KINGDOM COME," I'VE HEARD IT ALL BEFORE!
YOU'RE GOOD, KYLE.
HE MUST WORK FOR ONE OF THE RIVAL DEMON HOUSES. BUT LORD B'LIALE TOLD ME THEY HAD ALL AGREED TO A TEMPORARY CEASE FIRE!
STAY BACK-- STAY BACK, FREAK!

IF I ONLY HAD MY SWORD...BUT MAYBE THIS WILL STOP HIM.
PRETTY FUNNY, MAN--I GUESS YOU'RE JUST PUTTING ON A SHOW FOR THE LITTLE LADY.
NICE. YOU'RE AS SMOOTH AS I HEARD.
WHEN HE HIRED ME, DEVLIN TOLD ME YOU WERE A GOOD SOLDIER, BUT JUST LETTING YOURSELF DIE FOR THE CAUSE, THAT'S CRAZY.
EH?
THAK!
THUD!
KYLE-- A-ARE YOU HURT?
THE DARK SIDE OF MIDNIGH
KYLE, ANSWER ME!
I'M ALL RIGHT...BUT... WHA-WHAT WAS THAT THING?!
IT'S...
IT'S WHO I REALLY AM, KYLE.

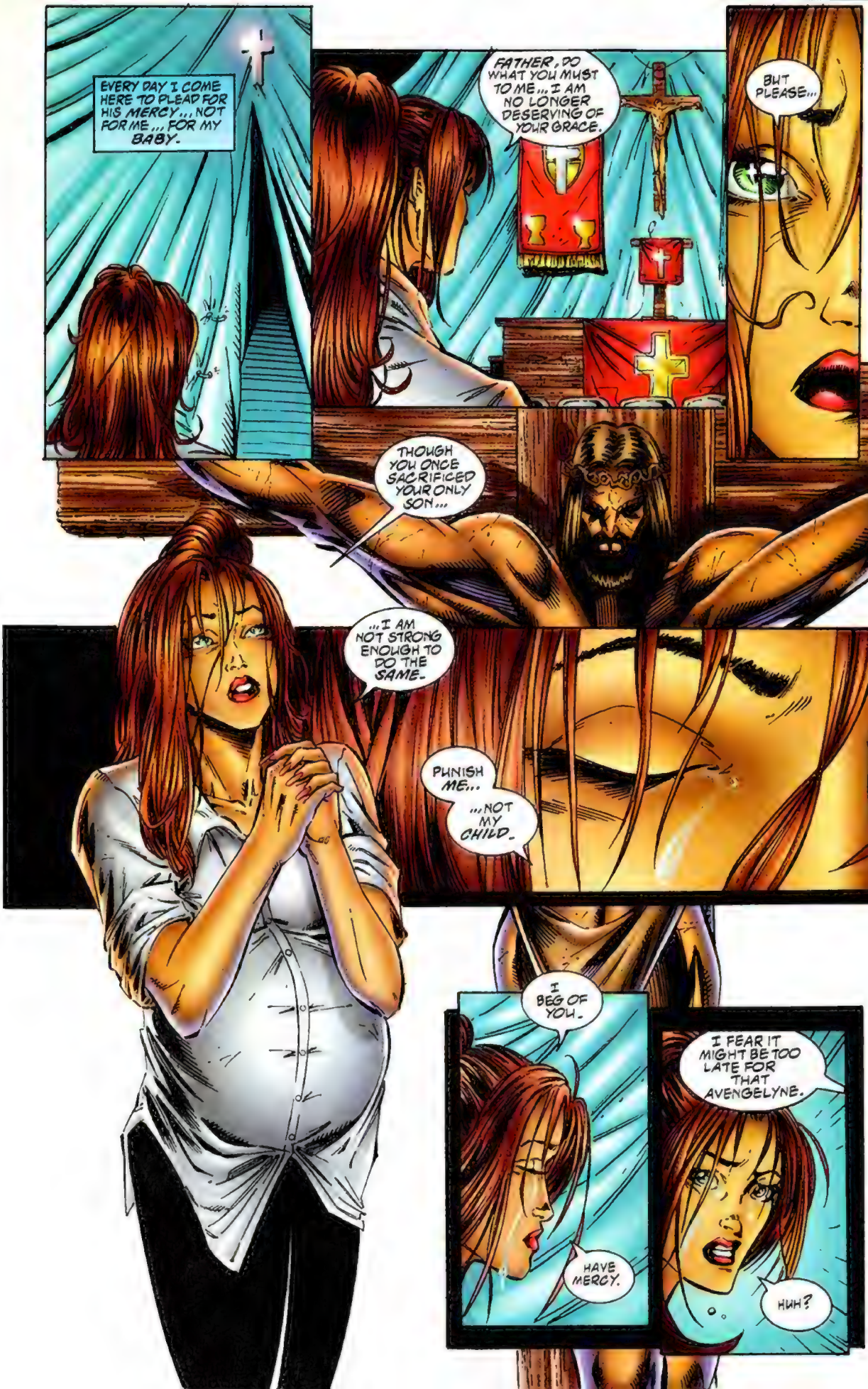
I DON'T BELIEVE IT...I SIMPLY DON'T BELIEVE IT!
IT'S DIFFICULT FOR EVERYONE AT FIRST--ESPECIALLY DEEPLY RELIGIOUS PEOPLE, SUCH AS YOURSELF, BUT IT'S TRUE. I WAS BORN OF LIGHT, IN A WORLD SO DIFFERENT FROM THIS ONE THAT...
WELL, YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE HOW DIFFERENT IT IS.
AND FATHER MALORY, AND PETER--THEY KNOW ABOUT YOU--AND THE DEMONS?
YES, AND THEY KNOW THAT IT WAS THE DEMONS WHO DESTROYED THE CHURCH. THEY DID IT BECAUSE OF ME, KYLE.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
THEY WISH TO HURT ME BY TERRORIZING THOSE I CARE ABOUT--THEY WANT VENGEANCE FOR ALL THE DEMONS I'VE DESTROYED.
NOW THAT I HAVE THIS MORTAL SHELL, THEY KNOW I CAN BE HURT--OR EVEN KILLED.
BUT YOU KNOW, KYLE, IT'S STRANGE. BEING TRAPPED IN THIS MORTAL BODY HAS TAUGHT ME A LOT. I'VE LEARNED A GREAT DEAL ABOUT HUMANITY'S STRENGTHS... AND THEIR FEARS...
...AND THEIR DESIRES.
DO YOU HAVE DESIRES, AVENGELYNE?
SOMETIMES.
I TRY TO FIGHT IT. I KNOW THE LORD OF HOSTS DID NOT BANISH ME TO EARTH SO I COULD DABBLE IN HUMAN EMOTION, BUT...SOMETIMES THE TEMPTATION IS TOO GREAT.
CAN YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT THAT'S LIKE, KYLE? TO KEEP FEELINGS BURIED INSIDE OF YOU, FOR FEAR THAT THEY'RE ONLY GOING TO MAKE YOUR SITUATION WORSE?
I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT THAT'S LIKE.
BUT YOU NEEDN'T BE AFRAID OF LOVE, AVENGELYNE....
...OR OF ME.
THE SPIRIT INDEED IS WILLING, BUT THE FLESH IS WEAK.
MATTHEW 26: 41
NEXT ISSUE:
AVENGELYNE'S BABY!
'NUFF SAID!

AVENGELYNE

CHAPTER 11

NEW YORK CITY.
5:00 AM
THE CHURCH OF THE PEOPLE CONSTRUCTION SITE.
"OH FATHER, FORGIVE ME, FOR I KNOW NOT WHAT I DO.
I SPOKE THOSE WORDS FOR THE FIRST TIME MERE WEEKS AGO.
ON THE NIGHT I WENT OUT WITH KYLE... ON THE NIGHT WE...
...COMMITTED A TERRIBLE SIN.
NOW I SPEND MY DAYS PLEADING FOR MY FATHER'S FORGIVENESS.
YET IN MY HEART I KNOW THAT MY SIN IS BEYOND REDEMPTION.

"FOR I HAVE SINNED AGAINST THE LORD."
AND LIKE KING DAVID WHO UTTERED THOSE SAME WORDS SO LONG AGO, MY SIN CANNOT BE SO EASILY DISMISSED.
I REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED WHEN DAVID SENT URIAH INTO BATTLE SO HE COULD POSSESS URIAH'S WIFE, BATHSHEBA.
AFTER URIAH DIED, MY FATHER BECAME SO ANGRY--MORE ANGRY THAN I'D EVER SEEN HIM BEFORE. HE DEMANDED RETRIBUTION. SO HE TOOK THE ONE THING THAT BOTH DAVID AND BATHSHEBA CHERISHED MOST... THEIR INFANT CHILD.
WILL IT BE THE SAME FOR ME?
WILL I PAY FOR MY DESIRES THE SAME WAY...
...AND BE ASKED TO SACRIFICE THE LIFE OF MY UNBORN CHILD?

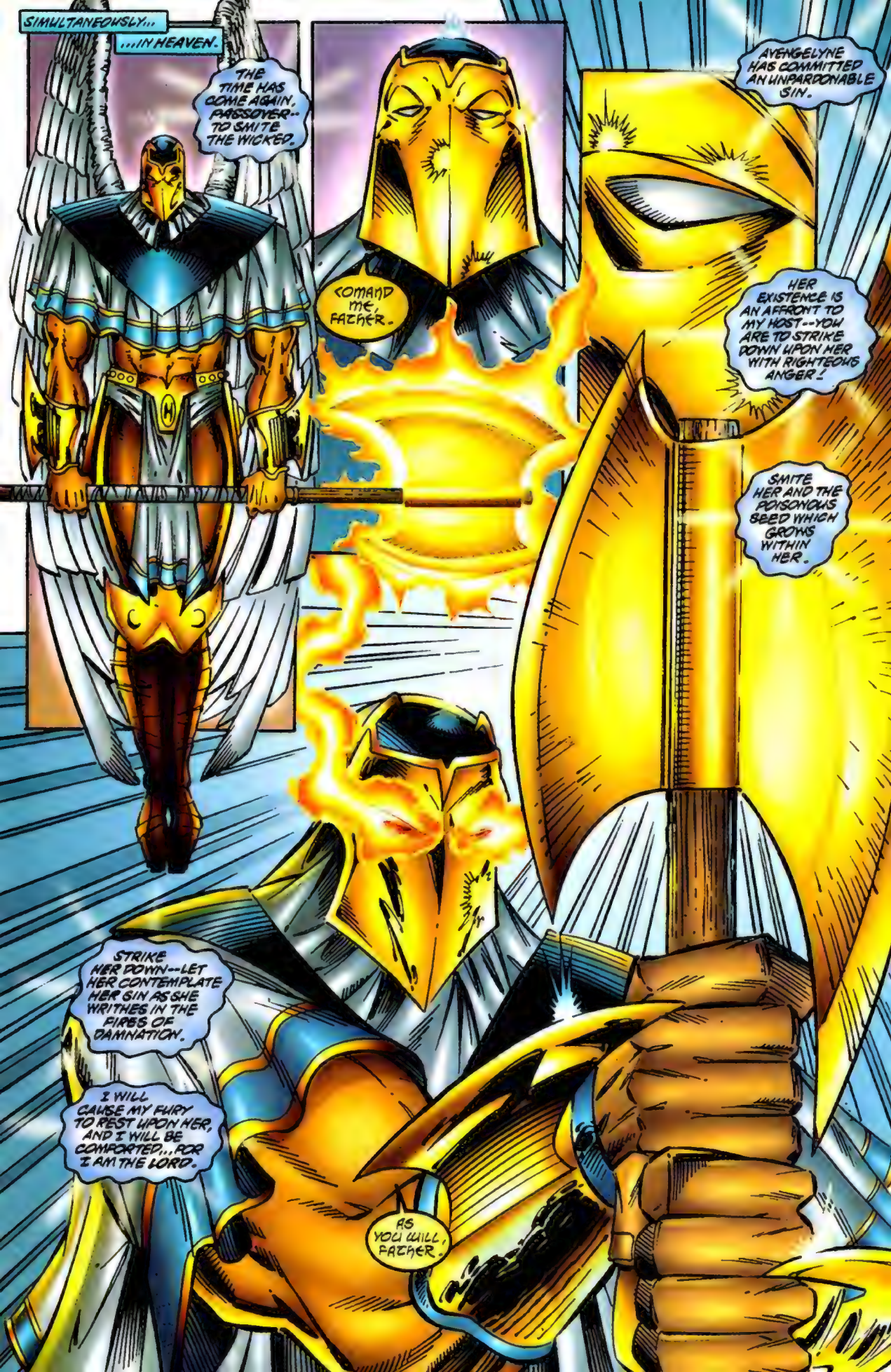

EVERY DAY I COME HERE TO PLEAD FOR HIS MERCY... NOT FOR ME... FOR MY BABY.
FATHER, DO WHAT YOU MUST TO ME... I AM NO LONGER DESERVING OF YOUR GRACE.
BUT PLEASE...
THOUGH YOU ONCE SACRIFICED YOUR ONLY SON...
...I AM NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO DO THE SAME.
PUNISH ME...
...NOT MY CHILD.
I BEG OF YOU.
HAVE MERCY.
I FEAR IT MIGHT BE TOO LATE FOR THAT AVENGELYNE.
HUH?

HELLO, PETER.
YOUR PREGNANCY HURT US ALL AVENGELYNE, BUT I'M CERTAIN THAT OUR ANGUISH CANNOT COMPARE TO THE PAIN FELT BY THE LORD.
YOU MAY HAVE EXCEEDED EVEN HIS CAPACITY FOR MERCY.
I-I KNOW I DISAPPOINTED YOU, PETER. I D-DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY.
I STILL CAN'T UNDERSTAND HOW YOU LET THIS HAPPEN.
AND AS IF THE SHOCK OF FINDING OUT WASN'T ENOUGH-- THE RAPID... PACE OF YOUR PREGNANCY HAS UNNERVED EVERY-ONE.
THOUGH IT'S ONLY BEEN A FEW WEEKS, YOU LOOK AS THOUGH YOU MIGHT GO INTO LABOR ANY MINUTE. IT HAS TO BE YOUR ANGEL HERITAGE. IT'S THE ONLY THING THAT MAKES SENSE.
PERHAPS. YOUR BROTHER MICHAEL IS A GIFTED DOCTOR, BUT EVEN HE CAN'T EXPLAIN IT TO ME.
I TRIED TO CONTACT MY FRIEND RACHEL, BUT SHE MUST STILL BE IN ROME WITH DEVLIN. *
*RACHEL IS A FALLEN ANGEL WHO HAD A CHILD, DEVLIN TRASK. SEE DEVLIN ONE-SHOT. --MATT
I'M SO SCARED PETER.
MY BODY IS UNDERGOING SUCH RAPID CHANGES. SOMETIMES THE PAIN IS UNBEARABLE-- IT'S LIKE NOTHING I'VE FELT SINCE ARRIVING ON EARTH.
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME?
AVENGELYNE...
I KNOW YOU COMMITTED A GREAT SIN BEFORE AND FELL TO EARTH AS A RESULT, BUT FOR ME YOUR PRESENCE HERE WAS A GIFT.
YOU WERE AN ANGEL-- A REAFFIRMATION OF GOD'S DIVINITY. BUT NOW...
...YOU'RE JUST LIKE THE REST OF US.
I'M SORRY. I WISH I COULD HELP YOU... COMFORT YOU... BUT...
I UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FEEL, PETER--REALLY I DO.
A-AND I HAVE NO ONE TO BLAME BUT MYSELF.

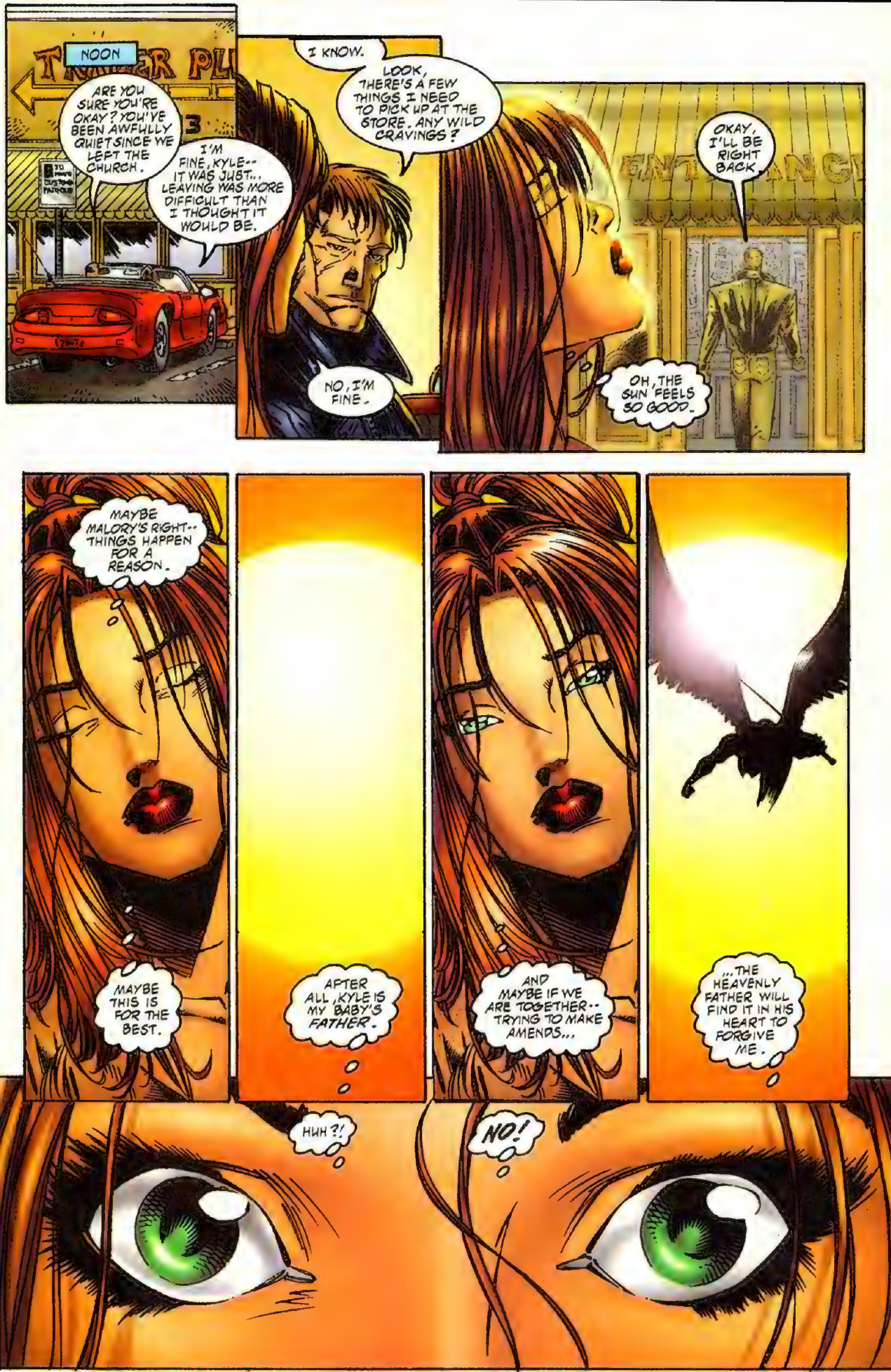
SHORTLY.
FATHER MALORY?
A FATHER NO MORE, MY CHILD, BUT DO COME IN.
I'M SORRY, I KEEP FORGETTING.
AVENGELYNE-- WE HAVE...
THERE'S SOME THINGS WE NEED TO DISCUSS.
PETER AND I HAVE TALKED ABOUT YOUR SITUATION WITH JANICE AND THE OTHERS, AND EVERYONE IS IN AGREEMENT. WE FEEL... THAT YOU SHOULD LEAVE THE CHURCH.
LEAVE?
NOW, BEFORE YOU JUMP TO ANY CONCLUSIONS, LET ME EXPLAIN.
DESPITE WHAT YOU MIGHT THINK, THIS IS NOT MEANT TO BE A PUNISHMENT.
IT'S SIMPLY TOO DANGEROUS FOR YOU TO CONTINUE LIVING IN THE TENTS GIVEN THE UNPREDICTABILITY OF YOUR CONDITION.
WE'VE MADE ARRANGEMENTS FOR YOU TO CHECK INTO A HOSPITAL WHERE YOU CAN RECEIVE THE PROPER CARE.
IT'S REALLY THE BEST THING FOR YOU... AND THE CHILD.
I'M SURE YOU'RE RIGHT... IT'S JUST... I'VE LOST MY FATHER, AND NOW I'M LOSING ALL OF YOU, TOO.
NO, NO, AVENGELYNE. YOU'RE NOT LOSING US--AND YOU CERTAINLY HAVEN'T LOST THE LORD. REMEMBER WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS, "HE RETAINETH NOT HIS ANGER FOR EVER, BECAUSE HE DELIGHTETH IN MERCY."
THINGS HAPPEN FOR A REASON-- I BELIEVE YOU WILL KNOW HIS LOVE AGAIN.
I HOPE SO.
WELL... GOODBYE, JACOB--THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING.
G-GOODBYE, MY CHILD...
...AND GOOD LUCK.

MALORY WAS TRYING TO REASSURE ME, BUT...
I KNOW THINGS WILL NEVER BE THE SAME.
THEY WERE MY FAMILY.
BUT NOW I'VE RUINED EVERYTHING.
EVERYTHING!
SMASH
AVENGELYNE-- AVENGELYNE, WHAT'S WRONG?!
OH, KYLE... IT'S MALORY AND PETER...
THEY WANT ME TO LEAVE THE CHURCH-- THEY THINK IT'S TOO DANGEROUS FOR ME TO STAY HERE.
THEY'VE ARRANGED FOR ME TO CHECK INTO A HOSPITAL.
I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY'D DO THAT!
THEY MEAN WELL-- THIS HAS BEEN DIFFICULT FOR THEM.

LOOK, AVENGELYNE-- I WAS CONTENT TO HAVE YOU STAY HERE UNTIL THE BABY WAS BORN--BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT YOU WANTED, BUT NOW IT'S TIME FOR US TO BE TOGETHER.
KYLE, I DON'T UNDER-STAND...
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
AVENGELYNE, I AM RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU, AND IF YOU AND THE BABY ARE GOING TO LEAVE HERE THEN YOU BELONG WITH THE CHILD'S FATHER.
A HOSPITAL IS TOO DANGEROUS-- THEY'LL ASK TOO MANY QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR RAPID PREGNANCY. I'LL HIRE A PRIVATE DOCTOR FOR YOU-- THE BEST MONEY CAN BUY.
I'LL GET YOU EVERYTHING YOU NEED.
I WANT YOU TO MOVE INTO MY APARTMENT, AVENGELYNE.
I KNOW IT'S A BIG STEP, BUT I WANT TO PROTECT YOU... AND OUR BABY.
THEN AFTER THE BABY'S BORN, WE'LL WORRY ABOUT THE FUTURE.
SO WHAT DO YOU SAY-- WILL YOU DO IT?
OH, KYLE...
YES!
THANK YOU--THANK YOU FOR NOT ABANDONING ME!
NOW LORD B'LIALE WILL HAVE HER PRECISELY WHERE HE WANTS HER.


SIMULTANEOUSLY...
...IN HEAVEN.
THE TIME HAS COME AGAIN, PASSOVER--TO SMITE THE WICKED.
COMAND ME, FATHER.
AVENGELYNE HAS COMMITTED AN UNPARDONABLE SIN.
HER EXISTENCE IS AN AFFRONT TO MY HOST--YOU ARE TO STRIKE DOWN UPON HER WITH RIGHTEOUS ANGER!
SMITE HER AND THE POISONOUS SEED WHICH GROWS WITHIN HER.
STRIKE HER DOWN--LET HER CONTEMPLATE HER SIN AS SHE WRITHES IN THE FIRES OF DAMNATION.
I WILL CAUSE MY FURY TO REST UPON HER, AND I WILL BE COMFORTED...FOR I AM THE LORD.
AS YOU WILL, FATHER.

AT THE SAME TIME...
EVERYTHING IS GOING ACCORDING TO PLAN.
DEEP WITHIN B'LIALE'S SANCTUM.
KYLE HAS MANIPULATED THE SITUATION EXACTLY AS I WILLED HIM TO.
ONCE AVENGELYNE IS UNDER HIS CARE, HER CORRUPTION WILL BE COMPLETE AND HER OFFSPRING WILL BE SAFE FROM HARM.
AND WHEN THE CHILD IS BORN, I SHALL BECOME ITS TRUE FATHER--I SHALL USE ITS POWER TO DESTROY MY RIVALS IN THE OTHER GREAT DEMON HOUSES AND FINALLY HAVE DOMINION OVER THIS PLANET.
BUT FIRST, THE CHILD SHALL KILL MY GREATEST RIVAL...
...ITS OWN MOTHER.


NOON
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE OKAY? YOU'VE BEEN AWFULLY QUIET SINCE WE LEFT THE CHURCH.
I'M FINE, KYLE-- IT WAS JUST... LEAVING WAS MORE DIFFICULT THAN I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE.
I KNOW.
LOOK, THERE'S A FEW THINGS I NEED TO PICK UP AT THE STORE. ANY WILD CRAVINGS?
NO, I'M FINE.
OKAY, I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.
OH, THE SUN FEELS SO GOOD.
MAYBE MALORY'S RIGHT-- THINGS HAPPEN FOR A REASON.
MAYBE THIS IS FOR THE BEST.
AFTER ALL, KYLE IS MY BABY'S FATHER.
AND MAYBE IF WE ARE TOGETHER-- TRYING TO MAKE AMENDS...
...THE HEAVENLY FATHER WILL FIND IT IN HIS HEART TO FORGIVE ME.
HUH?!
NO!

PASSOVER!
AVENGELYNE, YOUR HOUR HAS COME -- THE VIALS OF GOD'S WRATH SHALL BE POURED UPON YOU!

THE LORD LOVETH THE RIGHTEOUS, BUT HIS WRATH COMETH ON THE CHILDREN OF DISOBEDIENCE.
YOUR LIFE SHALL BE EXTINGUISHED, AS SHALL THE LIFE OF THE UNBORN!
NO, PLEASE, PASSOVER, HAVE MERCY!
IT'S TOO LATE FOR THAT!
AVENGELYNE!
AHHH!

AVENGELYNE, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
HEAR ME, LORD B'LIALE-- GOD HAS DISPATCHED THE BURNING ONES-- PASSOVER AND THE SERAPHS! THEY'RE HERE TO SLAY AVENGELYNE AND THE CHILD.
PROTECT HER AT ALL COST, KYLE-- I WILL SEND MY GREATEST LEGIONS TO AID YOU!
AVENGELYNE, ACCEPT FATHER'S SENTENCE WITH DIGNITY-- DO NOT DISGRACE HIM FURTHER BY CHALLENGING HIS JUDGMENT.
YOU-- ANGEL OF DEATH!
THINK OF US AS THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB AND PASS OVER THIS PLACE WHILE YOU STILL CAN-- WE WON'T LET ANYONE HARM AVENGELYNE!
BEHEMOTH!

SERAPHS-- SLAY THE DOGS OF B'LIALE-- PAINT THIS LAND WITH THE BLOOD OF AVENGELINE'S PROTECTORS!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND-- WHY WOULD THE DEMONS RISE TO HELP ME?
THEY'VE BEEN TRYING TO KILL ME EVER SINCE I FELL TO EARTH!
YOU WILL UNDERSTAND IN TIME-- BUT BY THEN IT WILL BE TOO LATE.
IT WAS A MISTAKE TO INTERCEDE ON BEHALF OF THE FALLEN ONE, BEHEMOTH!
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU TO RETURN EVER SINCE YOU BROUGHT THE PLAGUE ON EGYPT, PASSOVER!
SLAYING THE LEGENDARY "ANGEL OF DEATH" WILL BRING GREAT POWER TO THE HOUSE OF BEHEMOTH!

NO, DEVIL-- IT IS MY SWORD WHICH SHALL DEVOUR YOU!
THAK
ARRG!
KYLE-- RUN! HE WANTS ME, NOT YOU!
NO-- DON'T WORRY, I'LL PROTECT YOU!
KYLE WAGNER-- YOUR TONGUE IS FORKED LIKE THE DRAGON WHO YOU CALL MASTER!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT-- JUST KEEP AWAY FROM HER!
YOU ARE BUT FLESH, KYLE--A WIND THAT PASSETH AWAY AND COMETH AGAIN. MAY FATHER SHOW YOU MERCY!
NO, PASSOVER-- GET AWAY FROM HIM!

YOU LOVE THIS CREATURE, AVENGELYNE--THE ONE WHO HAS DEFILED YOU BEFORE OUR FATHER?!
HE IS A GOOD MAN--IT'S NOT HIS FAULT ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED--IT'S MINE!
FOOL!
SMAK
LET ME SHOW YOU THE TRUE VISAGE OF THE ONE YOU LOVE!
NO!

THE ONE WHO HAS SIRED THE UNBORN ABOMINATION WHICH GESTATES IN YOUR WOMB!
A MINION OF THE DEVIL!
DAMN YOU, PASSOVER!
THE WICKED IS SNARLED BY THE TRANSGRESSION OF HIS OWN LIPS!
BEHOLD THE TRUE COUNTENANCE WHICH HIDES BEHIND THE FLESH OF MAN, AVENGELYNE!
FZZAK!

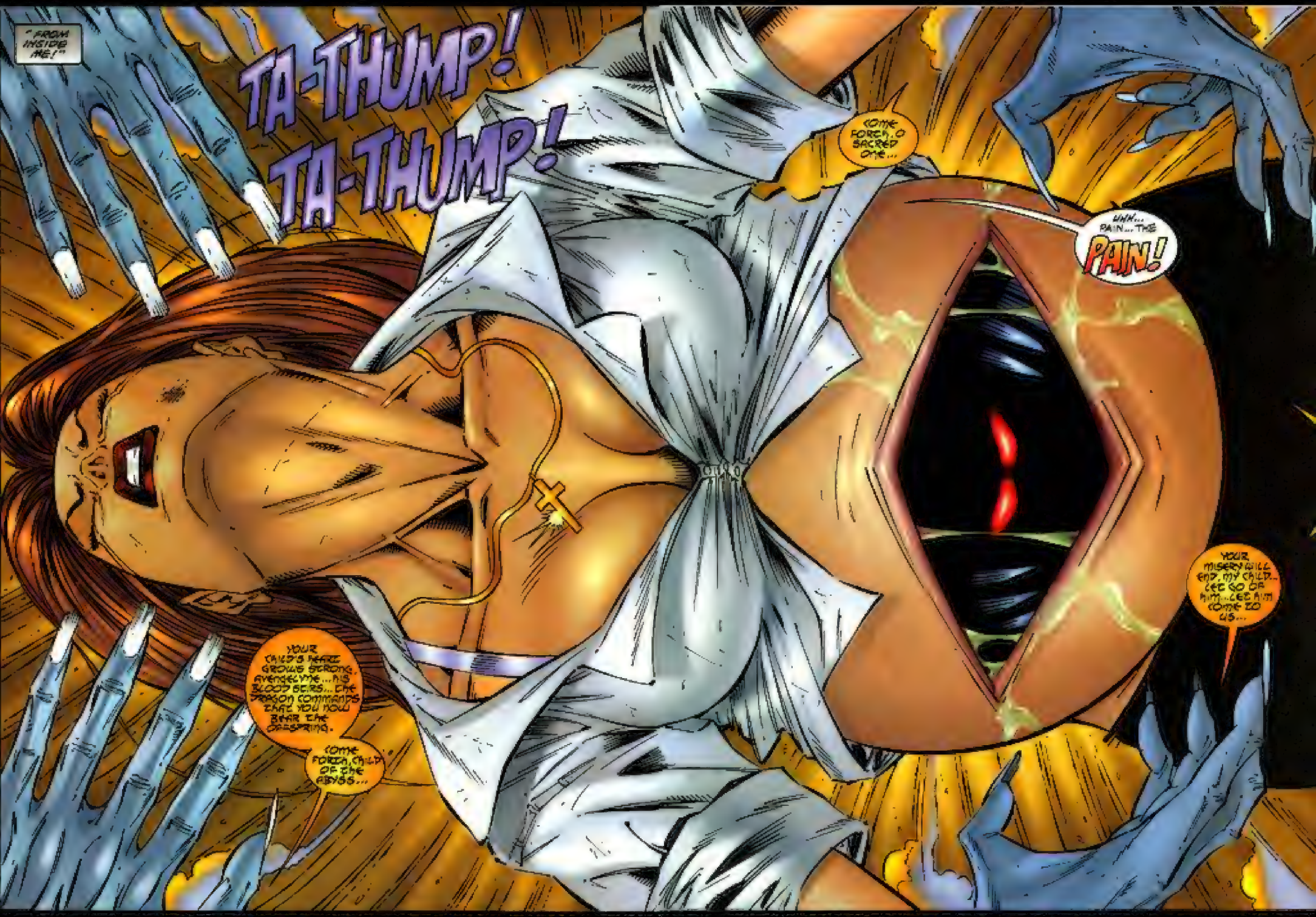
IT'S TOO LATE, PASSOVER... THE UNBORN COMES FOR YOU EVEN NOW!
NOOO!
THE UNBORN HAS STRENGTH BEYOND YOUR CONCEPTION, PASSOVER--
--YOUR PLAGUES AND WHITE FIRE ARE NOT MATCH FOR ITS POWER... BEHOLD!
HUH--GET AWAY FROM ME--GET AWAY!
WE ARE HERE TO EASE YOUR PAIN, AVENGELYNE.
YOUR PAIN...
PAIN...

THEY ARE HER MIDWIVES-- HERE TO BRING FORTH THE INFANT INTO THE WORLD OF THE LIVING!
NO..!
WE ONLY WISH TO HELP YOU, AVENGELYNE...
BRING FORTH THE CHILD, O DRAGON OF THE ABYSS.
HELP YOU...
SO HIS POWER MAY FLOURISH...
HELP YOU...
SO HE MAY DEVOUR HEAVEN'S RADIANT LIGHT!
YES, THE DRAGON HAS ANSWERED OUR PRAYERS... THE CHILD HAS COME!
TO BE CONTINUED!

AVENGELYNE

CHAPTER 12

NEW YORK CITY.
TRANSCORP
TA-THUMP
THE SOUNDS OF THE CITY HAVE FADED... THE BLARING OF CAR HORNS... THE PEOPLE YELLING AT ONE ANOTHER... ALL OF IT'S GONE.
TA-THUMP
EVEN THE NOISE OF THE BATTLE HAS SUBSIDED...
ONLY THE PAIN REMAINS... THE AGONIZING PAIN... AND THE ONE INCESSANT, DEAFENING SOUND.
TA-THUMP
WHY WON'T IT STOP?
IT'S COMING TOWARD ME.
TERMINATOR
IT'S GETTING LOUDER.
TA-THUMP TA-THUMP
TA-THUMP TA-THUMP
NO... NOT TOWARD ME...


"FROM INSIDE ME!"
TA-THUMP!
TA-THUMP!
COME FORTH, O SACRED ONE...
UHH... PAIN... THE PAIN!
YOUR CHILD'S HEART GROWS STRONG, AVENGELYNE... HIS BLOOD BEARS... THE DRAGON COMMANDS THAT YOU NOW BEAR THE OFFSPRING.
COME FORTH, CHILD OF THE ABYSS...
YOUR MISERY WILL END, MY CHILD... LET GO OF HIM... LET HIM COME TO US...

DO IT NOW!
SPLUT
AHHHH!
HE IS SO BEAUTIFUL.
YES, BIGZER. SPEAK HIS NAME SO AS TO PRAISE HIM...
HAIL,
MAGOG!
In sin did my mother conceive me.
PSALMS 51:5

SERAPHS, SLAY THE ABOMINATION AT ONCE-- DEVOUR HIM IN THE WHITE FIRE.
QUICKLY, BEFORE HIS STRENGTH CAN FULLY MANIFEST!
THINK AGAIN, PASSOVER. MY GROWTH IS ACCELERATED-- I ALREADY HAVE THE POWER--
TO SEND YOU WRITHING IN AGONY BACK TO YOUR GOD!

KRACKLE
KRACKLE
UNGH!
VOOSH
WHOOM
HAIL, MAGOG... HAIL.
NOW, I'D LIKE TO MEET MY MOTHER. WHERE IS THAT B#$%H?!

EARRG!
FHHT!
C-CAN'T LET THEM... FIND ME...
UHHH... IT HURTS...
PLEASE, FATHER... LET IT END.
SKREEEEEEEEEEEEE
AVENGELYNE!
I THINK SO, JACOB.
IS SHE ALIVE, PETER?!
AVENGELYNE, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
AVENGELYNE, ANSWER ME!
P-PETER? HOW... DID YOU FIND ME?
WE WERE DRIVING IN THE CAR WHEN A NEWS REPORT CAME OVER THE RADIO-- THEY SAID THERE WAS A RIOT GOING ON--THAT "WINGED PEOPLE" WERE SEEN FLYING THROUGH THE AIR.

WE'VE GOT TO GET YOU OUT OF HERE-- HALF THE CITY'S REPORTERS ARE ON THE WAY RIGHT NOW!
MY LORD, PETER--THE CHILD!
YOU GAVE BIRTH, AVENGELYNE?!
:SOB: YES, JACOB... THE CHILD WAS BORN.
WHERE IS IT?! AVENGELYNE, IS IT...
NO.
IT'S ALIVE... THOUGH I WISH IT WAS DEAD!
AVENGELYNE?
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, JACOB.
I WANT BOTH OF YOU TO LEAVE, RIGHT NOW, BEFORE ANY HARM COMES TO YOU.
I CAN'T GO TO THE HOSPITAL--I CAN'T GO ANYWHERE...
...NOT UNTIL I'VE KILLED MY BASTARD SON

MAGOG!
I AM NOT FINISHED WITH YOU, ABOMINATION!
BUT I DON'T WANT TO PLAY ANYMORE, PASSOVER.
KYLE WAGNER-- STRIKE HIM DEAD-- DEFEND THE HONOR OF YOUR HOUSE... AND YOUR FIRST BORN.
YES, MY SON...
MY LORD!

I OWE YOU THIS, PASSOVER.. FOR DISRUPTING LORD B'LIALE'S PLANS!
THANKFULLY MAGOG WAS NOT HURT BY HIS PREMATURE BIRTH.
YOU PLANTED THE SEED THAT SPAWNED THE DEVIL CHILD, KYLE--AND FOR THAT YOU SHALL KNOW ETERNAL DAMNATION!
FOR GOD SPARES NOT THE ANGELS THAT SIN!

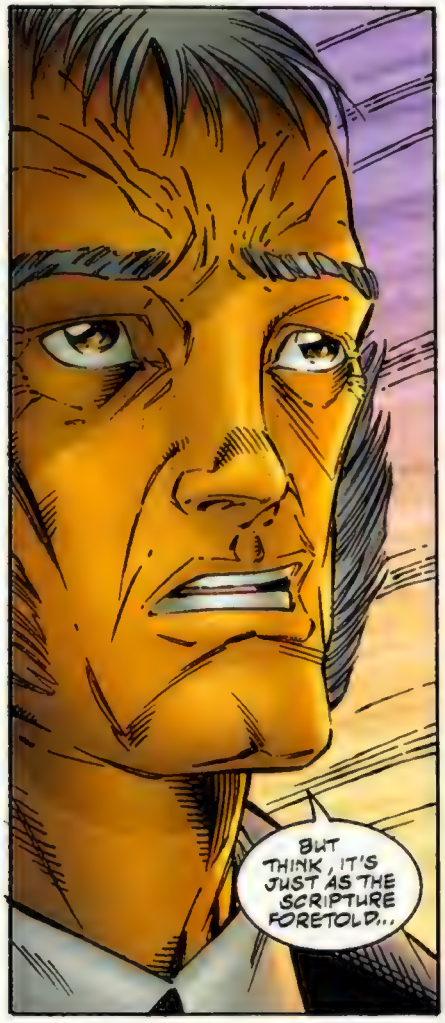
AHHHHH!
Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?
-JESUS MATTHEW 23:3

PATHETIC FOOL. I'M SURPRISED HE EVEN HAD THE FORTITUDE TO SIRE A SON.
HE WASN'T WORTHY OF BEING MY FATHER.
192
YOUR ARROGANCE IS BOUNDLESS, MAGOG... AS IS YOUR CAPACITY FOR EVIL.
I SHALL TAKE GREAT PLEASURE IN DESTROYING YOU.
I'VE ALREADY DEMONSTRATED THAT I AM THE STRONGER, YET YOU ALONE EXPECT TO DESTROY ME, PASSOVER?!

"BEHOLD!"
NO, MAGOG-- I AM GOING TO HAVE HELP.
And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven... he also having a sharp sickle.
-REVELATION 14:17
THIS IS ALL MY FAULT, PETER.
WHY.. WHAT'S WRONG?
IT'S AN ENTIRE LEGION OF MY FATHER'S HEAVENLY SOLDIERS.

"IT'S A WARHOST."
CHAK
FHAT
SWAKK
GAH!
HA HA HA
HA

M-MY LORD, PETER.
I-I KNOW, JACOB. I AM A MAN OF GOD... I HAVE SOUGHT THE WORD ALL MY LIFE... YET I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE THIS.


BUT THINK, IT'S JUST AS THE SCRIPTURE FORETOLD...

"AND HE GATHERED THEM TOGETHER..."
"...INTO A PLACE CALLED ARMAGEDDON."

WHILE PASSOVER COMMANDS HIS HOST, WE SHOULD TAKE A MOMENT TO GET ACQUAINTED.. MOTHER.
I LEARNED A GREAT DEAL ABOUT YOU WHILE GROWING IN YOUR WOMB-- THE MIGHTY AVENGELYNE WHO WAS CAST OUT TO LIVE AS A MORTAL.
BUT NOW IT'S TIME FOR THE LEGEND OF HEAVEN'S LEGIONS TO JOIN MY FATHER IN OBLIVION!
CHAK
IT IS YOU WHO SHALL BE CAST INTO THE BOWELS OF OBLIVION, DEVIL!
UGNH!
I SAID I DON'T WANT TO PLAY WITH YOU ANYMORE, PASSOVER.
AGH!

GOODBYE, MOTHER.
IF I COULD JUST REACH PASSOVER'S SWORD...
YOU WOULD KILL ME LIKE THIS, MAGOG--WHEN I BARELY HAVE THE STRENGTH TO STAND?
OF COURSE I WOULD.
AVENGELYNE...
GET AWAY FROM HER!
PETER, JACOB--ARE YOU INSANE? LEAVE HERE AT ONCE! HE DOESN'T WANT YOU, HE WANTS ME!
WELL, HE'S GOING TO HAVE TO GO THROUGH US FIRST. GET THEE BEHIND ME, DEVIL, IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST!
HA HA HA!
SMART LITTLE PRIEST--INVOKING THE NAME OF THE SON JUST SAVED YOUR PATHETIC LIFE!
BUT AVENGELYNE'S THE ONE I WANT!

KLANK!
LEAVE HIM ALONE, YOU BASTARD!
AND JUST HOW DO YOU INTEND TO DO THAT, MOTHER?
WITH EACH PASSING MOMENT I GROW STRONGER BOTH MENTALLY AND PHYSICALLY.
I AM NOT AN ABERRATION LIKE YOUR FRIEND DEVLIN TRASK--KYLE WAS SPECIFICALLY CHOSEN BECAUSE HIS BLOOD COULD SUCCESSFULLY MINGLE WITH YOURS.
SO THE WARHOST WISHES TO JUMP INTO THE FRAY ONE LAST TIME -- SO BE IT!
I'M NOT GOING TO FIGHT YOU...
...I AM GOING TO DESTROY YOU!
YOU CANNOT STOP ME, MOTHER, FOR THE BLOOD THAT EMPOWERS ME IS YOUR OWN!

I KNOW.

"FOR THE LIFE OF THE FLESH IS IN THE BLOOD."

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

OF COURSE... THE BLOOD IS THE KEY. M-MALORY... HELP HER... HELP HER FINISH THE VERSE... I THINK MY RIBS ARE BROKEN.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND, PETER.

YOU HEARD HER... LEVITICUS 17... HURRY, JACOB.

"FOR THE LIFE OF THE FLESH IS IN THE BLOOD..."

LOUDER.

STATIC

"AND I HAVE GIVEN IT TO YOU UPON THE ALTAR TO MAKE AN ATONEMENT FOR YOUR SOULS..."

"...FOR IT IS THE BLOOD MAKETH AN ATONEMENT FOR THE SOUL."

LIKE YOU, I HAVE ALSO DISCOVERED THE POWER OF MY OWN HERITAGE. ONE ANGEL BLOOD INCANTATION OPENS A GATEWAY TO PURGATORY...

SCHAKK

ANOTHER IGNITES THE BLOOD ITSELF!

AARG!!

YOU SEE, MAGOG-- THE BLOOD YOU CHERISH SO MUCH DOESN'T MAKE YOU STRONGER-- IT MAKES YOU WEAKER!

KLUD

WELL DONE, AVENGELYNE-- ALLOW ME TO FINISH HIM!

RETURN TO THE PIT, WRAITH!

I THINK WE DID IT, PASSOVER. I THINK WE DESTROYED HIM.

WAIT-- WHAT ARE THE MIDWIVES DOING?

HEAL HIM, O DARK ONE...

NURSING ME BACK TO HEALTH.

BOOM

CRASH

BUT MY BLOOD SHOULD HAVE IGNITED--AND BURNED YOU FROM WITHIN?!

IT DID.

BUT IT WILL TAKE MORE THAN THAT TO VANQUISH ME.

I UNDER-EST'IMATED YOU TODAY, MOTHER... I WON'T MAKE THAT SAME MISTAKE AGA'IN.

NEITHER WILL I.

MY SELFISH DESIRES LED TO YOUR CREATION, MAGOG -- I WON'T STOP UNTIL YOU ARE DESTROYED.

NO, MOTHER, YOU'RE WRONG. YOUR LIGHT SHALL BE EXTINGUISHED... AS SHALL THE LIGHT OF THIS WORLD...

...FOR THE DAYS OF PANDEMONIUM ARE UPON YOU ALL.

IT IS DONE...FOR NOW.

UHHH!

AVENGELYNE!

I'LL TAKE YOU TO MY BROTHER'S HOSPITAL.

NO... I'M ALL RIGHT. I'M JUST SO TIRED.

YOU CAN REST NOW, IT'S OVER.

IT'S NOT OVER PETER... NOT YET.

PASSOVER... I DID WHAT I COULD TO RECTIFY MY SIN, THOUGH I REALIZE IT'S NOT ENOUGH TO ASK FORGIVENESS.

DO AS YOU WERE COMMANDED TO DO... STRIKE ME DOWN... I WON'T RESIST YOU.

THE LORD OF HOSTS HAS GIVEN ME A NEW DIRECTIVE. NOT TO DESTROY.

BUT TO RESTORE.

HEAR ME, AVENGELYNE. THOUGH B'LIALE AND HIS MASTER IN THE PIT FOOLISHLY BELIEVE OTHERWISE, THEY HAVE NOT ORCHESTRATED THE EVENTS LEADING UP TO THIS ENCOUNTER.

THE HEAVENLY FATHER ALONE WILLED FOR THESE THINGS TO HAPPEN, AS HE WILLS ALL THINGS TO HAPPEN.

BUT... THAT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE.

IT WILL IN TIME. YOU ARE THE CHOSEN, AVENGELYNE... AND YOU HAVE PASSED YOUR FIRST TEST.

GO NOW, AND KNOW THAT ON THIS DAY

THE LORD OF HOSTS IS PLEASED.

PASSOVER, WAIT!

DID YOU HEAR HIM, PETER?

YES... YOU'VE BEEN ABSOLVED-- AT LEAST ABOUT THE BIRTH OF YOUR CHILD.

BUT WHY?

MAYBE IT'S BETTER NOT TO QUESTION...

"IT IS THE LORD: LET HIM DO WHAT SEEMETH HIM GOOD."

I'M GLAD YOU SURVIVED THIS, AVENGELYNE...

I TRIED TO TELL YOU THE NIGHT YOU WENT OUT WITH KYLE -- BUT INSTEAD OF HEEDING MY WARNING YOU BEHEADED MY MESSENGER.*

TYPICAL WOMAN.

BUT EVEN THOUGH I COULDN'T SPARE YOU THIS PAIN TODAY, THE TIME WILL COME WHEN YOU'LL NEED MY HELP AGAIN...

...AND I'LL BE READY.

NEXT ISSUE:

AVENGELYNE

CYBRID

*THE DEMON THAT APPEARED AT THE END OF AVENGELYNE #1. --MATT.

AVENGELYNE

CHAPTER 13

PROLOGUE.

THE INFO TECH BUILDING. FINANCIAL DISTRICT-- MANHATTAN, NEW YORK.

HOW'S IT COMIN', JONAH?

WE SHOULD BE ALLOWED ACCESS SHORTLY, PREACHER JOHN.

CODE ACCEPTED - ENTER

ALL I NEED TO DO IS ASK.

WHO WOULDA FIGURED? A COMPUTER PROGRAMMING COMPANY IN NEW YORK ACTING AS A FRONT FOR A WORLDWIDE CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION!

I'LL MAKE THIS QUICK. IF MY INFORMANT IS CORRECT, AN' HE USUALLY IS 'CAUSE HE KNOWS NOT TA SCREW WITH THIS FED*, ALL YOU'LL HAF TA DO IS SWEET TALK ONE OF THEIR COMPUTERS AND WE'LL GET ALL THE INTEL WE NEED ABOUT THE QUIET PALACE AND THE CYNOSURE.

ACCORDING TO PREACHER JOHN'S FBI INFORMANT, THE CYNOSURE IS A VAST CRIMINAL EMPIRE WITH A NUMBER OF UNDERWORLD ASSOCIATES.

BUT ONLY ONE OF THEIR CONFEDERATES INTERESTS ME: THE QUIET PALACE -- THE ORDER OF NINJAS WHO TRAINED ME IN THE ART OF DEATH AND WHO POSSESS THE SECRETS OF HOW I BECAME A CYBORG.

SOMETHING'S WRONG, JOHN.

ARE YOU SURE YOUR INFORMANT CAN BE TRUSTED?

SURE. HE AND I GO WAY BACK. BUT THEN AGAIN...

*FEDERAL AGENT.

"YA NEVER KNOW."
LOOKS LIKE SOME OF YOUR OLD PLAY-MATES FROM THE QUIET PALACE-- THINK WE COULD PERSWADE 'EM TO TALK ABOUT THIS.
I'VE NEVER KNOWN THEM TO NEGOTIATE.
AH, WELL, IT WAS JUST A THOUGHT.
AND SO... THE GAME BEGINS AGAIN.
END OF PROLOGUE.

THE RECENTLY-CONSTRUCTED CHURCH OF THE PEOPLE, FORMERLY KNOWN AS ST. AUGUSTINE.

WEEKS AGO, THIS SANCTUARY WAS BURNED TO THE GROUND BY THE DEMONIC WRAITHS THAT THRIVE IN THE SHADOWS OF THIS CITY. BUT THE CHURCH HAS BEEN GIVEN A SECOND CHANCE.

AND SO HAS ONE OF ITS CHILDREN.

FATHER...

I AM TO BLAME FOR WHAT HAPPENED TO THIS HOUSE OF WORSHIP. IT WAS MY PRESENCE HERE THAT CAUSED THE DEMONS TO ATTACK ST. AUGUSTINE IN THE FIRST PLACE.

NOW THAT IT LIVES AGAIN, I PROMISE TO PROTECT IT... AND THE GOOD PEOPLE WHO HAVE SACRIFICED SO MUCH TO SEE IT RESTORED. I SHALL STRIVE TO LIVE AS YOU HAVE WILLED ME TO.

AFTER I MOTHERED THE DEMON HYBRID *MAGOG*, ANY PUNISHMENT, NO MATTER HOW SEVERE, WOULD HAVE BEEN *JUST*. YET YOU SPARED ME FROM YOUR WRATH...

AND THE DAMNATION OF ETERNAL *OBLIVION*.

*AVENGELYNE #3 RECAP.

THE SHAPE-STEALING DEMON IS CALLED THREL AND LONG HAS HE WAITED TO HAVE THE TITLE OF LORD MATED TO HIS NAME.

HOW LONG HAS THE FORMER ARCH ANGEL WALKED THIS ACCURSED PLANET, SEETHING WITH BURNING HATRED FOR THE HOLY FATHER HE ONCE SERVED AND WHO BANISHED HIM TO THIS PATHETIC WORLD OF MAN? HOW LONG HAS HE DESIRED THE ADMIRATION AND RESPECT OF THE MIGHTY DEMON LORDS?

IF ASKED THAT QUESTION, THREL WOULD MOST LIKELY REPLY, TOO LONG, AND THEN TEAR THE LIFE FROM YOUR THROAT WITH RAGE, HANDS TREMBLING.

OF COURSE YOU CAN'T. THE WARHOST WERE ALWAYS THE MOST STUBBORN OF GOD'S HEAVENLY CREATION.

"SO YOU CONTINUE TO DO AS YOU DID IN HEAVEN, DESTROYING THOSE WHO FOLLOW THE WAYS OF THE DRAGON."

HE BELIEVES THAT THE KEY TO THE RESPECT, FOR WHICH HE YEARNS, SOMEHOW LIES WITH THE ANGEL WARHOST ALSO BANISHED TO THIS WORLD OF GOD'S MAN...

...AN ANGEL CALLED...

AVENGELYNE, AVENGELYNE. WHY DO YOU CLING TO THE WAYS OF OUR HATED CREATOR?

CAN'T YOU SEE? HE CARES AS MUCH FOR YOU AS THE HUMANS DO FOR THE CRAWLING INSECTS THAT MOVE ABOUT THEIR FEET!

HEY, THERE, YOU GOOD-LOOKIN' DEVIL!

WHO?

CAN YA HELP OUT AN OLD ALTAR BOY THERE, SPORT?

WHAT TIMING! THIS SHAPE WAS ON THE VERGE OF BEING A TAD RIPE!

I PROBABLY SHOULD THANK YOU. I'VE BEEN SO DISTRACTED BY THE FORMATION OF PLANS AGAINST AVENGELYNE THAT I'D FORGOTTEN TO EAT...

...AND CHANGE MY CLOTHES!

THE SHAPE IS ADEQUATE AND YOUR LIFE FORCE TASTY, BUT I COULD HAVE DONE WITHOUT THE FOOD OF YOUR LIFE MEMORIES.

PITY. IF YOU HAD ONLY APPLIED YOURSELF, YOU COULD HAVE AMOUNTED TO SOMETHING OTHER THAN A PLACE FOR MY CORRUPTIVE LIFE FORCE TO RESIDE.

NOW, WHERE WAS I? OH YES, HOW TO GAIN THE ADMIRATION OF THE DEMON LORDS? BY KILLING AVENGELYNE, OF COURSE.

FATHER, PASSOVER SAID THAT YOU WILLED FOR MY CHILD TO BE BORN... THAT IT WAS SOME KIND OF TEST... THAT I WAS THE CHOSEN.

I JUST WISH I KNEW WHAT IT ALL MEANT.

KRRK

WHO'S THERE? MALORY, IS THAT YOU?

I... MEAN YOU NO HARM.

JUST NEED A PLACE... TO REST... A QUIET PLACE.

WILL THIS PERSECUTION EVER END?

YOUR KIND HAS DEFILED THIS CHURCH FOR THE LAST TIME!

MAGGIE?

THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD...

HELP ME, MAGGIE... PLEASE... I'M SO TIRED... I JUST WANT TO BE-- KOFF-- TO BE WITH YOU AGAIN. LET'S GO TO OUR SECRET PLACE... IN THE MOUNTAINS... PLEASE... CAN'T WE GO THERE?

I'M... NOT MAGGIE... I'M SORRY.

I AM CALLED AVENGELYNE. WHO ARE YOU?

JONAH. MY NAME IS JONAH.

AND I'M THE ONE WHO'S SORRY--FOR A MOMENT, I THOUGHT YOU WERE MAGGIE. IT'S SO DIFFICULT SOMETIMES... I LOVED HER SO MUCH... ONLY TO LOSE HER.

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?

IT WAS A TRAP. THEY CAPTURED MY FRIEND PREACHER JOHN... I ESCAPED THE BATTLE... BUT THEY MAY HAVE FOLLOWED ME HERE.

A BATTLE? WITH WHO?

THEM...

"THE NINJA OF THE QUIET PALACE."

IT IS OVER, JONAH, COME WITH US AND WE'LL GRANT THIS WOMAN A MERCIFUL DEATH-- JUST AS WE DID *MARGARET!*

WHAT IS THIS ?

"COULD IT BE SOMEONE ELSE HAS AN INTEREST IN YOU, MY FALLEN ANGEL ?"

LET'S SEE IF YOU'RE AS GOOD AS THE RUMORS SAY!

THESE ASSASSINS HAVE PERSECUTED ME EVER SINCE I LEFT THEIR FOLD.

I AM ALSO A WARRIOR, JONAH -- CHARGED WITH THE PROTECTION OF THIS SANCTUM AND I WILL NOT LET ANYONE HARM IT OR ITS PEOPLE!

THEN LET US DANCE, AVENGELYNE...

"... LET US DANCE!"

I am as thou art, my people as thy people, my horses as thy horses.
-I KINGS 22:4

AFTER I MET PREACHER JOHN, I VOWED NEVER TO KILL AGAIN.

SWISH

BUT THAT WAS AN UNREALISTIC EXPECTATION.

KILLING IS THE WAY OF THE QUIET PALACE.

IT IS MY WAY.

WOUMPH

BUT I'VE NEVER FOUGHT ALONGSIDE ANOTHER.

I HOPE I CAN TRUST THIS WOMAN.

THEN AGAIN, DO I REALLY HAVE A CHOICE?

KLANK

ARGH!

JONAH, WILL THE OTHERS RETURN?

THEY ARE TRAINED TO FIGHT TO THE DEATH. THEY ARE MERELY REGROUPING FOR ANOTHER ATTACK. THEY DIDN'T EXPECT ME TO HAVE HELP.

DID YOU, YOSHI? IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME.

KILL ME, JONAH. I HAVE BEEN DEFEATED... MY LIFE IS OVER.

NO, YOSHI.

YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME WHERE MY FRIEND IS -- WHERE HAVE YOUR BRETHREN TAKEN JOHN?

I DON'T KNOW--I SWEAR!

NO MORE GAMES, YOSHI! TELL ME-- BEFORE I GIVE YOU A TRUE REASON TO COVET DEATH!

THE TRIAL OF THE TENGU'S DEN, JONAH. PASS THE TEST... AND PERHAPS YOU'LL SEE YOUR FRIEND ALIVE ONCE AGAIN.

NO.

WHAT'S WRONG?

I WAS ONCE AN ASSASSIN OF THE QUIET PALACE. I THOUGHT I HAD ESCAPED, BUT YOU CAN NEVER ELUDE YOUR PAST... OR YOUR DESTINY.

I UNDERSTAND, JONAH... MORE THAN YOU REALIZE.

=KOFF= =KOFF=

DON'T MOVE!

THIS IS TEAM ONE TO CONTROL. WE'VE SECURED THE PACKAGE.

WELL DONE, TEAM ONE -- BRING CYBRID TO THE CYNOSURE IMMEDIATELY.

I AM THE CYBRID AVENGELYNE-- THEY WANT ME. LEAVE--

THIS IS MY **HOME** AND I WON'T LET IT BE DESTROYED AGAIN!

NEVER IN HEAVEN OR ON EARTH HAVE I FACED OPPONENTS LIKE THESE.

I HAVE FOUGHT ONLY DEMON OR MORTAL.

THANK YOU, JONAH-- BUT I CAN'T DO THAT.

NEVER MACHINE.

SKRAK

THIS SWORD BELONGED TO ONE OF THE FALLEN ASSASSINS. IT IS NOT UNLIKE MY SWORD...

I SUPPOSE I, TOO AM AN ASSASSIN OF SORTS.

THACK

SLSH ZZT

BUT I DESTROY TO SERVE THE GOOD--TO SERVE THE LORD OF HOSTS!

JONAH, COME WITH ME-- WE HAVE TO LEAD THEM AWAY FROM THE CHURCH!

YES, I MUST FIND A PLACE TO RECUPERATE-- BEFORE I GO IN SEARCH OF MY FRIEND.

TEAM ONE TO CYNOSURE CONTROL--THE PACKAGE HAS BEEN LOST! REPEAT-- THE PACKAGE HAS BEEN LOST!

BEGIN RECOVERY PROTOCOLS-- WE ARE DEPLOYING ADDITIONAL UNITS.

UNDER-STOOD, CONTROL-- WE ARE IN PURSUIT.

NOT A VERY HOSPITABLE HIDING PLACE... BUT IT SHOULD BE DIFFICULT TO SEE US FROM THE AIR.

ARE THEY THAT DESPERATE TO FIND YOU?

THEY WON'T STOP, AVENGELYNE... UNTIL I'VE BEEN CAPTURED OR DESTROYED.

WHAT IS THIS TEST THE NINJA SPOKE OF?

IN ORDER TO SAVE MY FRIEND'S LIFE, I HAVE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TENGU'S DEN RITUAL. THEY'RE TRYING TO USE PREACHER JOHN AS BAIT TO DRAW ME BACK INTO THEIR FOLD.

I WISH I COULD HELP YOU, JONAH. I KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE HUNTED... I ALSO HAVE MANY ENEMIES.

I'M SORRY I EVER SET FOOT IN YOUR CHURCH, AVENGELYNE. I FEAR THAT EVEN IF WE PART COMPANY NOW, YOU'LL BE MARKED FOR DEATH BY THE CYNOSURE AND THE QUIET PALACE.

AS YOU'VE ALREADY SEEN, THEY ARE RELENTLESS.

THEN THE DECISION HAS ALREADY BEEN MADE...

LET'S FINISH THIS, JONAH... TOGETHER.

TO BE CONTINUED

AVENGELYNE

CHAPTER 14

NEW YORK CITY-- THE BRONX. NOW.

MY BROTHER'S TABLE "All Welcome!"

TONIGHT, IN THIS UNLIKELY LOCATION, TWO POWERFUL FORCES HAVE JOINED AS ONE...

AVENGELYNE, THE RITUAL OF THE TENGU'S DEN REQUIRES THE SHEDDING OF ALL VESTIGES OF HUMANITY TO BECOME A COLD, CALCULATING KILLING MACHINE... THE *ULTIMATE ASSASSIN.*

SOMETHING I SWORE TO *MAGGIE* I'D NEVER BE.

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHERE THIS RITUAL TAKES PLACE?

IF WE COULD ENTER THEIR TEMPLE UNDETECTED, WE COULD RESCUE *PREACHER JOHN* BEFORE THEY REALIZE WE'RE EVEN THERE.

IT'S NOT A PLACE PER SE. IT IS A TRIAL... A RITE OF PASSAGE FOR THOSE OF THE *QUIET PALACE.*

SMASH

RUMBLE

WHAT'S GOING ON?!

STAND READY, JONAH!

THE NINJA OF THE QUIET PALACE AND THE CYNOSURE OPERATIVES -- THEY'VE JOINED FORCES IN ORDER TO CAPTURE ME!

THEN, WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO FIGHT THEM BOTH!

I will not cry, nor spare, nor have mercy, but destroy them.
-JEREMIAH 13:14

EARLIER THAT EVENING.

MY, MY, MY! WHAT HAVE WE HERE?!

PERHAPS YOU COULD SHARE SOME INFORMATION WITH ME...

...AND PROVIDE ME WITH A FAR MORE ATTRACTIVE AND USEFUL SHAPE!

WHO?! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

DOING? I'M DOING WHAT I WAS CURSED TO DO BY THE LORD GOD ALMIGHTY!

HE THOUGHT I WAS TOO VAIN TO BE ONE OF HIS CHOSEN AND PUNISHED ME BY TAKING AWAY MY PERFECT BODY. BASTARD! NOW I MUST TAKE THE BODIES OF OTHERS IN ORDER TO SURVIVE.

NOOO!

NOT ONLY DO I ACQUIRE THE SHAPE BUT ALSO THE MEMORIES OF THE INDIVIDUAL. AND YOU, MY FRIEND, ARE JUST LOADED WITH USEFUL INFORMATION.

YOU ARE... *WERE* AN ASSASSIN IN THE SERVICE OF A POWERFUL NINJA CLAN CALLED THE QUIET PALACE. THE CLAN IS IN PURSUIT OF SOMETHING CALLED *CYBRID*.

AH, BUT THE PLOT THICKENS. *JOSHUA TIERSMA*, AN UNSCRUPULOUS BUSINESSMAN WHO RUNS A CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION CALLED THE CYNOSURE, ALSO SEEKS THIS CYBRID.

AND A WOMAN OF GREAT STRENGTH AND WARRIOR SKILL HAS HELPED THE MYSTERIOUS QUARRY ESCAPE. SHE IS OF COURSE, MY QUARRY, THE WARHOST AVENGELYNE.

HOW INTERESTING... ALL PARTIES HAVE SOMETHING IN COMMON.

"I THINK IT WOULD BE WISE TO HAVE A CHAT WITH MR. TIERSMA. A MAN WITH HIS POWER COULD HAVE SOME PULL WITH THE DEMONIC BROTHERHOOD I WISH TO JOIN."

HOW DID THE CYBRID ESCAPE THE CHURCH, UNIT #1?

THE QUARRY HAD HELP, MR. TIERSMA, SIR. THERE WAS THIS WOMAN AND SHE...

ENOUGH, I'VE HEARD THE EXCUSES! THIS MYSTERY WOMAN DISPLAYED PARANORMAL STRENGTH AND SKILL TO...

WHAT IS THAT NOISE?!

THAT'S RIGHT, SIR--SHE AND THE CYBRID ELIMINATED A BAND OF QUIET PALACE ASSASSINS BEFORE WE EVEN GOT THERE! SIR... EXCUSE ME, SIR, ARE YOU STILL THERE?

YOU MIGHT AS WELL SHOW YOURSELF. I KNOW YOU'RE HIDING THERE.

VERY GOOD, MR. TIERSMA. I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THIS BODY TOO DISCREET FOR EVEN YOU TO DETECT MY PRESENCE.

YES, I'M HERE. BEFORE I CONTACTED YOU, I SPOKE TO KURODA-SAN. DESPITE OUR DIFFERENCES, WE'VE AGREED TO A TEMPORARY TRUCE--THERE'S NO POINT IN FIGHTING ONE ANOTHER WHILE OUR QUARRY ESCAPES. YOU WILL ACCOMPANY HIS NINJA AND FIND THE CYBRID, AND UNIT #1... DON'T DISAPPOINT ME AGAIN.

MASTER LAO, ISN'T IT? DESPITE OUR FAILED "BUSINESS DEALINGS" I'VE JUST NEGOTIATED A TRUCE WITH YOUR WARLORD, KURODA-SAN. GIVEN THAT, I WOULD ASSUME YOUR INTENTIONS ARE... *BENEVOLENT?*

LAO NO LONGER EXISTS-- I HAVE USURPED HIS BODY. MY REASON FOR COMING IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE...

...FOR BOTH OF US.

INDEED? VERY WELL, WHY DON'T YOU STAY PERFECTLY STILL AND TELL ME ALL ABOUT IT.

LET'S START WITH THE BEGINNING, SHALL WE? IF YOU ARE NOT LAO, WHO ARE YOU THEN?

AS THERE EXIST NATURAL FORCES IN THIS WORLD, TIERSMA, I'M SURE YOU WILL AGREE, THERE MUST ALSO EXIST *SUPER-NATURAL* FORCES...

MY NAME IS *TUREL*. I AM ONE OF THOSE SUPER-NATURAL FORCES. I HAVE COME TO MAKE YOU AN OFFER YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO REFUSE.

I CAN REFUSE ANYTHING, MR. TUREL. WHAT COULD YOU POSSIBLY HAVE THAT I COULDN'T ACQUIRE WITHOUT YOU?

I CAN PROVIDE YOU WITH A PRIZE THAT HAS TESTED YOUR GOOD PATIENCE FOR SO LONG. I CAN GIVE YOU WHAT YOUR ARMORED SOLDIERS AND THOSE OF THE QUIET PALACE HAVE FAILED TO DELIVER.

I CAN HAND YOU THE CYBRID. BUT I MUST HAVE SOMETHING IN RETURN. SHALL I CONTINUE?

PLEASE.

THE QUIET PALACE SEEKS CYBRID BECAUSE NO ONE HAS EVER LEFT THEIR FOLD-- YOU SEEK HIM FOR REASONS KNOWN ONLY TO YOU.

I CAN SATISFY ALL PARTIES INVOLVED, BUT IN RETURN YOU WILL HELP ME DESTROY A WOMAN... A WOMAN CALLED AVENGELYNE.

NOW.

BAKOOM

I'LL DO MY BEST!

TRY TO GUIDE THEM AWAY FROM THE PEOPLE!

THE NINJA FIGHT LIKE DEMONS-- WITH CUNNING AND SKILL--BUT THE MECHANIZED WARRIORS USE ONLY BRUTE FORCE!

WHICH THEY HAVE IN ABUNDANCE.

JONAH, WHY ARE THEY *WITHDRAWING?*

REMEMBER WHAT I SAID ABOUT THE TENGU'S DEN RITUAL -- IT IS AN ANCIENT RITE PASSED ON VERBALLY BY THOSE WHO SUCCESS-FULLY COMPLETE THE CHALLENGE...

YES, I REMEMBER--AND TO SURVIVE THE CHALLENGE YOU MUST SHED ALL EMOTION AND BECOME A RUTHLESS KILLER... OR DIE AT THE HANDS OF THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE ORDER.

EXACTLY. AND NOW THEY WISH TO ADMINISTER THE TENGU'S DEN TO ME BY LURING ME INTO THEIR TRAP.

JUST LOOK AT THEM, AVENGELYNE. PREACHER JOHN ALWAYS SAID THE CYNOSURE AND THE QUIET PALACE WERE LINKED--AND THAT I WAS THE KEY. HE WAS RIGHT ALL ALONG.

IT'S OBVIOUS THEY WANT US TO GO FORWARD... INTO THAT *BUILDING*.

YES, IT IS TO SERVE AS THE RITUAL DEN. LET'S NOT KEEP THEM WAITING.

SIR, SHOULDN'T WE ATTACK THEM NOW-- WHILE THEY'RE EXPOSED IN THE STREET LIKE THAT?

DO NOT QUESTION MY ORDERS-- SIMPLY OBEY THEM.

OF COURSE, SIR. I'M SORRY, MR. TIERSMA--PLEASE FORGIVE ME.

WE SHALL WATCH AND WAIT. THE NINJA OF THE QUIET PALACE SHALL DO THE REST.

THERE WAS SOMETHING VERY *SINISTER* ABOUT TUREL... DANGEROUS EVEN BY MY STANDARDS. CROSSING HIM MIGHT INVITE MORE RISK THAN THE CYBRID IS WORTH.

STEP FORWARD, CYBRID... AND AVENGELYNE. FOR THE TEST AWAITS YOU BOTH!

YOU KNOW WHO I AM?!

OF COURSE--I KNOW EVERYTHING. NOW JUST STEP INTO THE DARKNESS OF THE TENGU'S DEN... AND ALL SHALL BE REVEALED!

GET OUTTA HERE, KID... I CAN HANDLE THESE SPOOKS... MYSELF.

PREACHER JOHN!

HE'S GONE! ENVELOPED BY A SHROUD OF DARKNESS! THE TACTICS ARE UNMISTAKABLE, JONAH--THERE ARE DEMONS HERE. I'M SORRY--IT SEEMS I HAVE BROUGHT MY OWN ENEMIES TO THE FOREFRONT OF THIS BATTLE.

YOU HESITATE-- DO YOU BOTH FEAR WHAT AWAITS YOU ONCE YOU PASS OVER THIS THRESHOLD?

DO YOU DARE TO ENTER THE LAIR OF THE TENGU'S DEN... WHERE THE POWERS OF EVIL ARE EXALTED?

HA HA HA HA HA!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS, AVENGELYNE-- THIS TRIAL IS MEANT FOR ME ALONE.

A SOUR SMELL OF THE UNEARTHLY WAFTS FROM THIS STRUCTURE-- I COULD NEVER FORGIVE MYSELF IF I ALLOWED YOU TO FACE THIS EVIL WITHOUT MY HELP.

I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT--IT'S AS IF THE DARKNESS IS CONSUMING THE LIGHT.

IT IS A DEMON SHROUD--ONE OF MANY TRICKS THEY USE TO DISORIENT THEIR OPPONENTS DURING COMBAT.

MOVE CAUTIOUSLY, JONAH. WE FACE A POWER FAR GREATER THAN THE ASSASSIN'S BLADE.

DID YOU HEAR ME, JONAH?

JONAH?!

YOUR CYBORG FRIEND IS ATTENDING TO OTHER MATTERS, MY DEAR. NOW IT IS TIME FOR YOU AND I TO GET BETTER ACQUAINTED.

WELCOME, WARHOST!

BUT PERHAPS FIRST YOU'D ENJOY SOME COMBAT TO QUELL THE FIERY WARHOST SPIRIT WHICH BURNS IN YOUR HEART!

I HAD PLANNED TO KILL YOU TO WIN THE FAVOR OF THE DEMON LORDS, BUT NOW I THINK YOU WOULD SERVE ME EVEN BETTER *ALIVE*.

SIMULTANEOUSLY...

WHOEVER YOU ARE--FACE ME. THOUGH THIS DARKNESS SHROUDS YOUR PRESENCE, MY SENSORS TELL ME THAT YOU'RE THERE.

SHOW YOURSELF!

JONAH... IT'S ME... FOLLOW THE SOUND OF MY VOICE.

JOHN?!

YEAH, KID. THE NINJA LEADER... SOME KIND OF GAS CAME OUT OF HIS BODY... I BREATHED IT IN... IT HURT LIKE HELL.

CAN YOU STAND?! THERE ARE MORE THAN NINJA AND CYNOSURE ASSASSINS HERE.. AND DEMONIC CREATURES ARE ALL AROUND US. I HAVE TO GET YOU TO SAFETY AND THEN FIND MY FRIEND, AVENGELYNE.

THE GAS... WENT INTO MY LUNGS... WENT IN... AND CHANGED ME.

CHANGED YOU?! HOW?!

I'M SEEING THINGS A WHOLE LOT CLEARER NOW!

SWACK

HAGH!

LET THE RITE OF PASSAGE BEGIN!

WOOSH

WATCHING YOU FIGHT, I CAN SEE WHY THE DEMON LORD'S DESPISE YOU SO.

WHY DON'T YOU FACE ME INSTEAD OF SENDING YOUR MINIONS--OR ARE YOU AFRAID?!

DON'T YOU AGREE, AVENGELYNE?

I MUST ADMIT, THIS ENTIRE PLAN, THE TENGU'S DEN AND ALL, IS A BIT ELABORATE FOR MY TASTE, AND YET IT SEEMS TO HAVE PRODUCED THE DESIRED RESULT!

HAHAHA! NO, I'M NOT AFRAID OF YOU. IN FACT, WE ARE MUCH ALIKE YOU AND I. WE WERE BOTH BANISHED FROM HEAVEN FOR OUR CRIMES. CRIMES WHICH DEFINE OUR TRUE NATURE.

COME ON, KID, SHOW US WHAT YOU'VE GOT. SHOW US YOUR TRUE NATURE-- LET GO OF THOSE FEELINGS MAGGIE * PUT INSIDE OF YOU!

KILL ME! IT'S THE ONLY WAY YOU'LL SURVIVE THE TENGU'S DEN!

* CYBRID'S LOVER WHO WAS MURDERED BY THE QUIET PALACE.

NO, JOHN-- NO MATTER WHAT YOU SAY, I WON'T KILL YOU! I CAN'T!

THEN FAIL THE TEST OF THE TENGU'S DEN AND DIE LIKE MAGGIE!

SLASH

ARGH!

YOU'D BE SURPRISED TO KNOW HOW ENTWINED THE BUSINESS OF MAN HAS BECOME WITH THE AFFAIRS OF THE DEMONS, AVENGELYNE.

TAKE THE LEADER OF THE CYNOSURE TIERSMA-- HE IS A POWERFUL AND INFLUENTIAL BUSINESSMAN, A MAJOR CRIMINAL FIGURE.

YET EVEN AFTER REVEALING MY DEMONIC NATURE TO HIM, HE DIDN'T HESITATE TO ENTER INTO AN ALLIANCE WITH ME JUST SO LONG AS HE GOT WHAT HE WANTED.

WHAT I'M TRYING TO TELL YOU, MY DEAR FALLEN ANGEL, IS THAT YOUR BATTLES AGAINST THESE DEMONIC FORCES ON EARTH HAVE ALL BEEN FOR NAUGHT.

WHO ARE YOU SAVING-- THE HUMANS?! THEY EMBRACE DARKNESS EVERY CHANCE THEY GET!

WHY NOT ACCEPT YOUR FATE--TIERSMA SHALL HAVE HIS CYBRID AND I SHALL PARADE YOU BEFORE THE DEMON LORDS AND TAKE MY PLACE AMONG THEM

WHEN I BRING THEM THE PRIZE THEY HAVE COVETED FOR SO VERY LONG, I SHALL BE GIVEN THE RESPECT OUR HEAVENLY FATHER NEVER SHOWED ME!

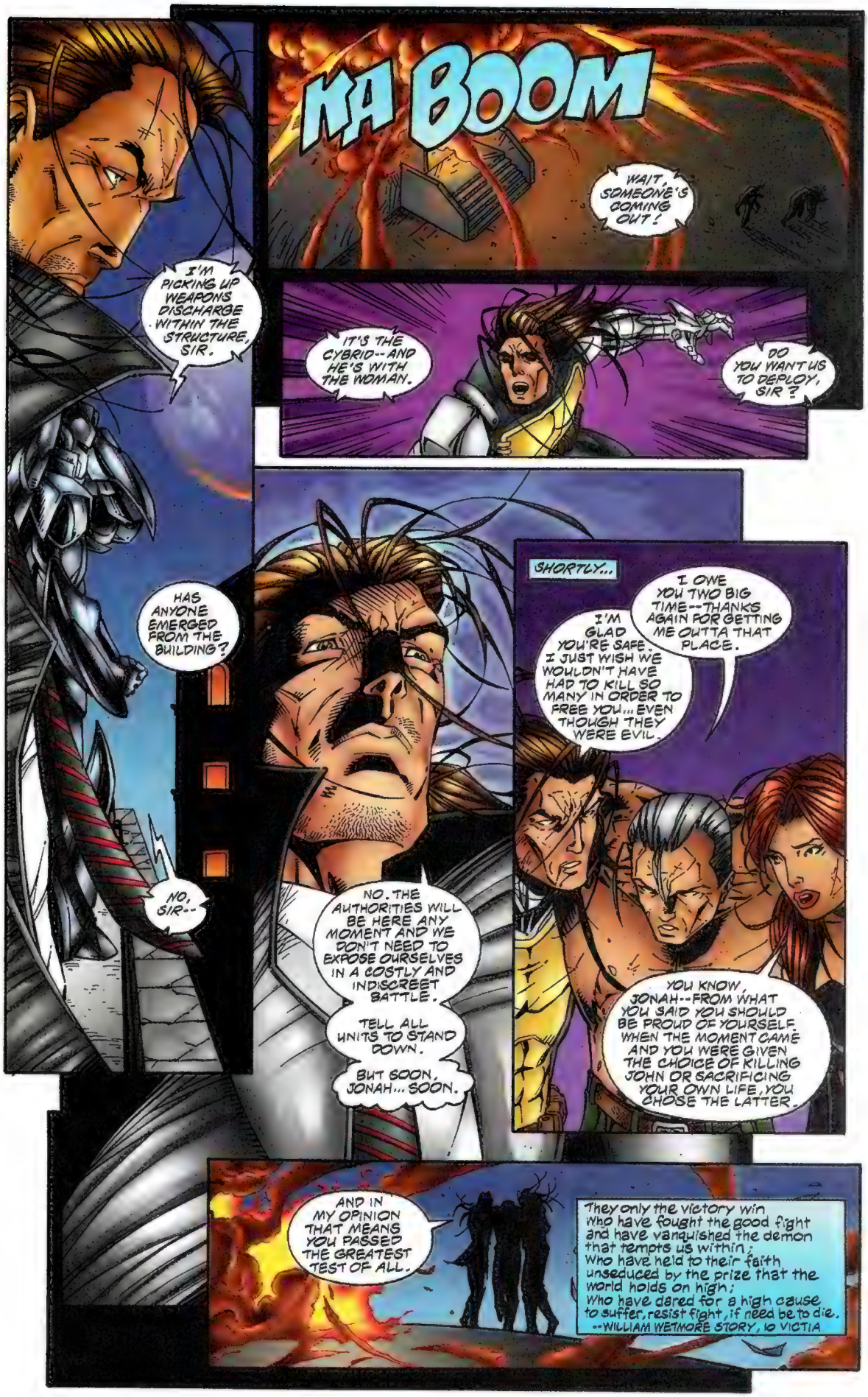
THE BEAST WRITHES WITHIN YOU, CYBRID--FREE HIM! DESTROY US ALL AND BECOME MASTER OF THE TENGU'S DEN!
NO--I WON'T DO IT!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, KID--AFRAID OF ME?!
ARE YOU AFRAID I'LL FINISH THE WORK I STARTED THE FIRST NIGHT WE MET--THE NIGHT I HAD YOU RUNNIN' SO SCARED YOU TRIED TO KILL YOURSELF?
FEEL YOUR ANGER, CYBRID--RELEASE THE BEAST AND BECOME ONE OF US AGAIN!
RELEASE THE BEAST WITHIN!

UGH!
THE LORD TOOK AWAY MY PERFECT BODY AS HE DID YOURS. NOW I MUST USE MORTAL SHELLS IN ORDER TO SURVIVE!
AS YOU CAN SEE, I HAVEN'T QUITE GOTTEN OVER THE LOSS.
:SNIFF: ANGEL BLOOD-- SUCH A PURE, SICKLY SWEET ODOR, BUT USEFUL GIVEN ITS DIVINE PROPERTIES.
AND SINCE YOU HAVE AN ABUNDANT SUPPLY OF THIS POWERFUL SUBSTANCE, PERHAPS IT'S TIME I TAKE THE SHAPE OF AN ANGEL ONCE AGAIN. WHAT DO YOU THINK, AVENGELYNE?
WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE MY SOUL INSIDE OF YOU?!

WHAT'S THAT WEAPON YOU'RE FORMIN', KID? LOOKS LIKE A GUN.
YOU FINALLY TIRED OF GETTIN' YOUR BUTT WHIPPED? YOU READY TO END THIS?!
YES, JONAH, SHOW US!
SHOW US THE EVIL WITHIN YOU-- TAKE YOUR RIGHTFUL PLACE AS A MEMBER OF OUR SACRED ORDER!
KILL PREACHER JOHN-- HE IS OF NO USE TO US! PROVE THAT YOU ARE WORTHY OF THE TENGU'S DEN!
NO, JOHN!
BLAM BLAM
CRASH
DAMN YOU, KID!
CREEE

JONAH!
A PITY-- I'D HOPED TO CAPTURE YOU ALIVE, AVENGELYNE.
AVENGELYNE, BEHIND YOU!
ENJOY PURGATORY, TUREL!
NOOO!
BUT NOW IT SEEMS YOU AND CYBRID ARE DESTINED TO END YOUR EXISTENCE TOGETHER. HOW VERY DRAMATIC!
THOKK!

M-MUST TAKE BACK MY ESSENCE... WILL NEED IT TO SURVIVE...!
NO, THE TRIAL IS NOT YET COMPLETE!
NOO!
I WILL NOT.. BE DEFEATED... WITH SUCH EASE!
I SHALL TAKE A NEW FORM...
LEAVE, JONAH-- I'LL FINISH THE DEMONS!
NO, TAKE JOHN AND GET OUT OF HERE. IT'S TIME I GIVE THEM WHAT THEY'VE WANTED FROM ME!


KA BOOM
WAIT, SOMEONE'S COMING OUT!
I'M PICKING UP WEAPONS DISCHARGE WITHIN THE STRUCTURE, SIR.
IT'S THE CYBRID--AND HE'S WITH THE WOMAN.
DO YOU WANT US TO DEPLOY, SIR?
HAS ANYONE EMERGED FROM THE BUILDING?
NO, SIR--
NO. THE AUTHORITIES WILL BE HERE ANY MOMENT AND WE DON'T NEED TO EXPOSE OURSELVES IN A COSTLY AND INDISCREET BATTLE.
TELL ALL UNITS TO STAND DOWN.
BUT SOON, JONAH... SOON.
SHORTLY...
I OWE YOU TWO BIG TIME--THANKS AGAIN FOR GETTING ME OUTTA THAT PLACE.
I'M GLAD YOU'RE SAFE. I JUST WISH WE WOULDN'T HAVE HAD TO KILL SO MANY IN ORDER TO FREE YOU... EVEN THOUGH THEY WERE EVIL.
YOU KNOW, JONAH--FROM WHAT YOU SAID YOU SHOULD BE PROUD OF YOURSELF. WHEN THE MOMENT CAME AND YOU WERE GIVEN THE CHOICE OF KILLING JOHN OR SACRIFICING YOUR OWN LIFE, YOU CHOSE THE LATTER.
AND IN MY OPINION THAT MEANS YOU PASSED THE GREATEST TEST OF ALL.
They only the victory win
Who have fought the good fight
and have vanquished the demon
that tempts us within;
Who have held to their faith
unseduced by the prize that the
world holds on high;
Who have dared for a high cause
to suffer, resist fight, if need be to die.
--WILLIAM WETHORE STORY, IO VICTIA

AVENGELYNE

CHAPTER 15

" Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near. "
Thus was the preamble to Armageddon.
The promise of revelation.
But now that dread time, which always loomed so near, has long since passed.
The Valley of Megiddo no longer burns with the fires of war-- the river of life now floweth from the throne of God.
All that is left now is to chronicle the tale that I, Amos, beared witness to.
It is a tale of redemption and sacrifice... a tale which begins and ends with the extraordinary courage of a singular being...

"The angel named Avengelyne."
NEW YORK CITY...
...IN THE TWENTY FIRST CENTURY.
THE CHURCH OF THE PEOPLE.
ALL THESE YEARS ON EARTH...
...YET I'VE NEVER FELT TRULY AT HOME ON THIS WORLD.
A PART OF ME HAS ALWAYS LONGED FOR HEAVEN...FOR ITS TRANQUILITY...ITS SPLENDOR. NOT A DAY GOES BY THAT I DON'T THINK ABOUT IT.
BUT IT'S FOOLISH. I HAVE BEEN HERE SO LONG, NEVER HEARING A WORD FROM THE LORD OF HOSTS. PERHAPS HE IS SILENT BECAUSE I AM STILL UNDESERVING OF HIS FORGIVENESS. PERHAPS THE SIN WHICH WARRANTED MY EXILE...
...IS BEYOND REDEMPTION.

WELL, I MAY NO LONGER BASK IN HEAVEN'S LIGHT, BUT AT LEAST I CAN SAVOR MY FATHER'S OTHER CREATIONS.
IT'S STRANGE. AS AN ANGEL, I NEVER COULD HAVE ENJOYED THIS FRAGRANCE. ANGELS HAVE NO CAUSE TO SMELL, OR TASTE, OR FEEL ... YET HUMANS WHO ARE BORN WITH THESE GIFTS TAKE THEM ALL FOR GRANTED.
I'LL NEVER TRULY UNDERSTAND HUMAN BEINGS.
SOMETIMES, I THINK I HAVE MORE IN COMMON WITH THESE FLOWERS THAN I DO WITH THEM. FOR LIKE ME, ROSES HAVE NO PROMISE OF IMMORTALITY... THEY HAVE NO SOULS TO SQUANDER.
AND DESPITE THEIR DELICATE APPEARANCE...
...THEY ARE DEADLY TO THE TOUCH.

"MUCH LIKE AN ANGEL."
GASP!
AVENGELYNE!
"WHO IS WORTHY TO BREAK THE SEVEN SEALS AND OPEN THE SCROLL?"*
"WORTHY IS THE LAMB, WHO WAS SLAIN, TO RECEIVE POWER AND WEALTH AND WISDOM AND STRENGTH AND HONOR AND GLORY AND PRAISE.**"
GASP! THOSE WORDS ARE TO BE SPOKEN... ONLY AS THE HOUR OF ARMAGEDDON NEARS.
*REVELATION 5:2
**REVELATION 5:12. "THE LAMB" IS A REPRESENTATION OF JESUS.

AYE, SOON WE SHALL BE GATHERED TOGETHER IN THE PLACE THAT IS ARMAGEDDON. WHERE THE SEVENTH ANGEL SHALL POUR OUT HIS BOWL OF GOD'S WRATH AND A VOICE WILL CRY FROM THE THRONE.
"IT IS DONE." THEN THERE WILL COME FLASHES OF LIGHTNING, PEARLS OF THUNDER...
...THE EARTH SHALL QUAKE...AND THE CITIES AND THE NATIONS SHALL COLLAPSE.
IT IS GOOD YOU HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN HIS WORDS, AVENGELYNE. COVET THEM, FOR THEY ARE ALL WE HAVE LEFT.
YOU WILL. NOW COME WITH US-- HEAVEN AWAITS YOU.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
BUT WHAT ABOUT MY PUNISHMENT? DOESN'T FATHER WANT ME TO REMAIN HERE?
ALL I KNOW IS THAT YOU ARE NEEDED IN HEAVEN.
WE ARE SERAPHS OF THE MIGHTY AMOS. WE HAVE BEEN SENT BY HIM TO BRING YOU BACK.
CAN'T I AT LEAST SAY GOODBYE TO PETER AND--
NO. THERE IS NO TIME, AVENGELYNE.
"FOR THIS GREAT CITY OF BABYLON WILL SOON BE THROWN DOWN, NEVER TO BE FOUND AGAIN.

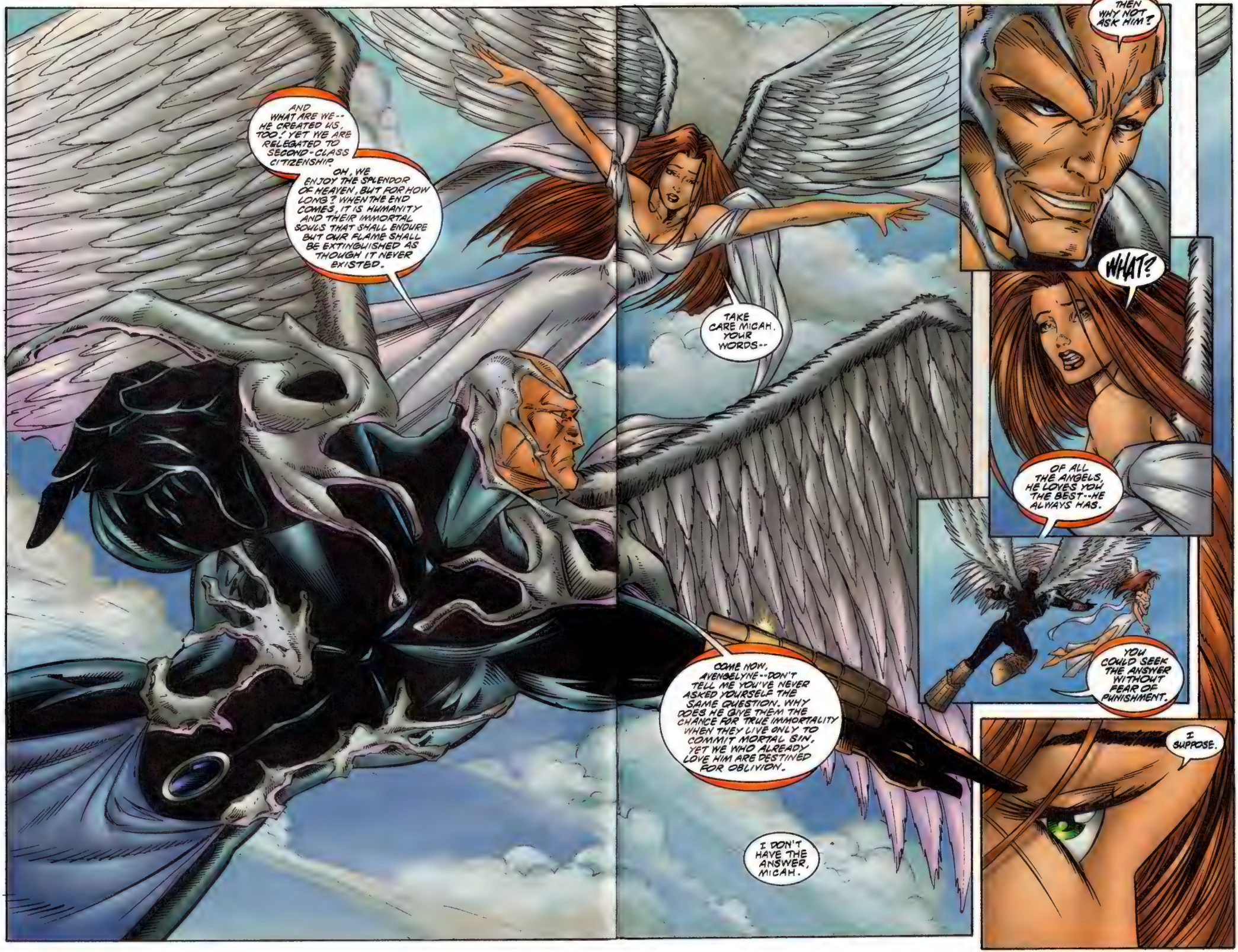
A MOMENT AGO, YOU SAID THE WORDS ARE ALL WE HAVE LEFT.. WHAT DID YOU MEAN BY THAT?
ONCE WE PASS THROUGH THE GATEWAY WHICH SEPARATES MAN'S WORLD FROM OURS... YOU WILL KNOW.
CAN'T YOU TELL ME ANYTHING?
I CAN TELL YOU ONLY THIS...

"A GREAT SILENCE HAS BEFALLEN HEAVEN."
WHAT HAPPENED-- WHY DOES EVERYTHING LOOK SO DIFFERENT?
MUCH HAS CHANGED SINCE YOUR FALL FROM GRACE.
OUR LEGION HAS BEEN DIVIDED. SOME OF THE WARHOST REMAIN LOYAL TO HEAVEN, OTHERS HAVE ALLIED THEMSELVES AGAINST US.
ANOTHER REBELLION?
YES. AND AS BEFORE THEY ARE BEING LED BY ONE OF OUR OWN KIND, BUT THIS TIME IT IS NOT THE DRAGON IN THE PIT WHO HAS BETRAYED US...

IT IS THE SERAPH MICAH.
NO...
Avengelyne knew the name well, for she and the seraph Micah had battled side by side since the moment they were born from the flame of the white fire.
Hand picked by the archangel Michael to serve his mighty warhost, the two angels became the most feared warriors among the demons of Pandemonium.
They slew at will in the heart of the dragon's furnace, easily besting all of the legions who rose to challenge them.
Truly, none were more powerful and none were more feared...

"And none were more ripe to fall."
TELL ME, SISTER--IN REAL COMBAT DO YOU THINK YOUR SKILLS ARE SUCH THAT YOUR BLADE COULD PIERCE THE SHELL OF YOUR BROTHER?
WHEN YOU SPARKED FROM THE WHITE FIRE, FATHER SHOULD HAVE TAUGHT YOU SOME HUMILITY, MICAH!
PERHAPS YOU CAN, SISTER!
KLANK
"AS YOU WISH!"
WELL DONE, AVENGELYNE. AS I RECALL, IT WAS I WHO TAUGHT YOU THAT BIT OF SWORDSMANSHIP.
A PITY WE CANNOT BE HURT, FOR VICTORY IS MEANINGLESS WITHOUT THE AGONY OF YOUR OPPONENT.
MICAH!

DO NOT SPEAK SUCH THINGS.
FORGIVE ME SISTER, IT WAS MEANT ONLY IN JEST.
THOUGH I AM CERTAIN THAT THE DEMONS OF PANDEMONIUM MISS HAVING BODIES WHERE THE FLESH IS HEALED THE MOMENT IT IS SCORED.
WE NEVER FEEL PAIN, WE NEVER WANT FOR NOURISHMENT, WE CANNOT BE DESTROYED SO LONG AS THE LORD EMPOWERS US, YET FOR ALL THIS PERFECTION WE LIVE ONLY TO FIGHT.
WE BALANCE THE SCALES BETWEEN HEAVEN AND HELL, SO HUMANITY..
AH, AND NOW YOU HAVE SPOKEN THE NAME OF OUR TRUE MASTERS. THE DRAGON MUST EXIST OR HUMANITY WOULD HAVE NOTHING TO CHOOSE BETWEEN, AND AFTER ALL IT IS THE CHOICE THEY MAKE FOR THEIR SOULS WHICH MEANS MORE TO HIM THAN ANYTHING.
THEY ARE HIS CHILDREN.


AND WHAT ARE WE-- HE CREATED US, TOO! YET WE ARE RELEGATED TO SECOND-CLASS CITIZENSHIP.
OH, WE ENJOY THE SPLENDOR OF HEAVEN, BUT FOR HOW LONG? WHEN THE END COMES, IT IS HUMANITY AND THEIR IMMORTAL SOULS THAT SHALL ENDURE BUT OUR FLAME SHALL BE EXTINGUISHED AS THOUGH IT NEVER EXISTED.
TAKE CARE MICAH, YOUR WORDS--
COME NOW, AVENGELYNE--DON'T TELL ME YOU'VE NEVER ASKED YOURSELF THE SAME QUESTION. WHY DOES HE GIVE THEM THE CHANCE FOR TRUE IMMORTALITY WHEN THEY LIVE ONLY TO COMMIT MORTAL SIN, YET WE WHO ALREADY LOVE HIM ARE DESTINED FOR OBLIVION.
I DON'T HAVE THE ANSWER, MICAH.
THEN WHY NOT ASK HIM?
WHAT?
OF ALL THE ANGELS, HE LOVES YOU THE BEST--HE ALWAYS HAS.
YOU COULD SEEK THE ANSWER WITHOUT FEAR OF PUNISHMENT.
I SUPPOSE.

Despite her misgivings, Arengelyne was swayed by Micah's words, and sought an audience with the Lord of Hosts...
FATHER-- MAY I SPEAK?
SPEAK, MY SERAPH.
FATHER, I AM PUZZLED BY SOMETHING... MAY I ASK A QUESTION?
POSE YOUR QUESTION.
WE OF THE WARHOST FIGHT AGAINST THE DRAGON'S BROOD. WE DO SO FOR YOUR GLORY AND TO GIVE HUMANITY A CHANCE TO FIND THE DIVINITY WITHIN THEMSELVES.
YES.
BUT IT SEEMS THAT THE DRAGON'S GRIP HAS ONLY TIGHTENED AROUND HUMANITY. THE LONGER THE BATTLE RAGES, THE MORE THEY TURN AWAY FROM YOU. YOU EVEN SACRIFICED YOUR ONLY SON TO ATONE FOR THEIR SINS, YET THEY CONTINUE TO SPURN YOU.
FATHER, HOW CAN YOU LOVE THEM SO MUCH--WHEN THEY SEEM SO UNDESERVING OF YOUR LOVE?

KRAKABOOM
YOU DARE TO QUESTION MY JUDGMENT, AVENGELYNE?!
YOU PROVOKE ME UNTO WRATH WITH YOUR INSOLENCE!
NO, FATHER, I--
PERFECT... IT'S JUST AS I HOPED IT WOULD BE.
GOODBYE... AVENGELYNE.
FATHER, I MEANT NO--
BY THY WORDS, THOU ART CONDEMNED!
I AM AT YOUR MERCY, FATHER.
FOR PUNISHMENT, YOU SHALL BE BANISHED TO LIVE AS THOSE YOU WOULD CONDEMN! WALK NAKED UPON THE EARTH WITH MAN, THEN PONDER THY JUDGMENT BEFORE THY SPEAKETH AGAIN!
YES, FATHER... I AM TRULY SORRY.

And so it was that the mightiest of God's angels fell to the earth...
MICAH KNEW HOW OUR FATHER WOULD RESPOND TO MY QUESTION, I AM CERTAIN OF THAT.
WELCOME AVENGELYNE! YOU TOILED LONG UPON THE EARTH. IT IS GOOD TO HAVE YOU WITH US ONCE MORE.
PASSOVER!
I ONLY WISH THE CIRCUMSTANCES WERE DIFFERENT.
AS DO I. YOU WILL FIND THAT MANY THINGS HAVE CHANGED SINCE YOU WERE CAST OUT.
SWORDS CAN NOW PENETRATE OUR FLESH-- WE CAN BE HURT... EVEN DESTROYED.
HOW CAN THAT BE? FATHER STILL EMPOWERS US. WE SHOULD BE--
HE IS GONE, AVENGELYNE.
AYE, IT IS TRUTH I SPEAK... JEHOVAH HAS DISAPPEARED.
WHAT?

NONE HAVE SEEN HIM. NONE CAN FIND HIM. SERAPHS HAVE SEARCHED HIS DOMINION, BUT HE HAS VANISHED AS THOUGH HE NEVER EXISTED.
MICAH DIDN'T HESITATE TO DECLARE HIMSELF THE NEW MASTER OF HEAVEN. A HANDFUL OF ANGELS JOINED HIM AND THEY MADE WAR AGAINST US. THOUGH WE ARE WEAKENED BY THE LORD'S ABSENCE, AS FABSOVER DESCRIBED, OUR COMBINED MIGHT WAS ENOUGH TO FORCE HIM FROM HEAVEN.
MICAH KNEW HE NEEDED A LARGER ARMY, SO HE FREED FROM PURGATORY THE LOST SOULS--THOSE HUMANS WHO BELIEVED IN NEITHER HEAVEN NOR HELL.
HE WILL USE THEM TO STRIKE AT HUMANITY AND BRING ABOUT THE FINAL WAR.
ARMAGEDDON.
THERE IS NONE AMONG US WHO KNOWS MICAH BETTER THAN YOU, AVENGELYNE. YOU FOUGHT AT HIS SIDE--YOU KNOW HOW HE THINKS.
WE NEED YOU AS YOU WERE... WE NEED YOU TO LEAD US. WHAT SAY YOU?

WE FIGHT!
And so it was that after years of exile on earth, the seraph Avengelyne was restored to her rightful station and wield the fire of heaven once more. She fought not for herself or her kind...
...but to defend God's children in his absence.

SOMEWHERE IN THE ATLANTIC...
<YOU'RE BLUFFING.>*
<YOU THINK SO?>
*TRANSLATED FROM DUTCH. --MATT.
KRASH
<HEY, YOU FEEL THAT?>
<'COURSE WE FELT THAT-- LET'S GET TOPSIDE AND SEE WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON!>
<WAVES CAME OUT OF NOWHERE, CAPTAIN.>
<LOOK AT THAT!>
<GOD HAVE MERCY!>

I'M AFRAID YOUR SAVIOR HAS ABANDONED YOU FOR GREENER PASTURES, MORTAL.
YOUR LIVES AND THE WORLD THAT YOU HAVE KNOWN SHALL BE CONSUMED BY THE FIRES OF ARMAGEDDON, BUT AT LEAST IN THE SUFFERING YOU MAY FIND SOLACE.
FOR AS THE WORD OF YOUR DEAR FATHER SAYS, "HE THAT HATH SUFFERED IN THE FLESH HAS CEASED FROM SIN."
HUMANITY, NOW PREPARE TO SUFFER FOR THY NEW GOD-- LORD MICAH!
...and men gnawed their tongues in agony and cursed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, but they refused to repent of what they had done.
REVELATION 16:10
TO BE CONTINUED IN
ARMAGEDDON

AVENGELYNE
ISSUE ONE COVER
ORIGINAL MINI-SERIES

AVENGELYNE
ISSUE TWO COVER
ORIGINAL MINI-SERIES

AVENGELYNE
ISSUE THREE COVER
ORIGINAL MINI-SERIES

AVENGELYNE
ISSUE ONE COVER
POWER MINI-SERIES

AVENGELYNE
ISSUE TWO COVER
POWER MINI-SERIES

AVENGELYNE
ISSUE THREE COVER

POWER MINI-SERIES

AVENGELYNE
ISSUE ONE COVER
DEADLY SINS MINI-SERIES

AVENGELYNE
ISSUE TWO COVER
DEADLY SINS MINI-SERIES

AVENGELYNE
ISSUE 1/2 COVER
REGULAR SERIES

AVENGELYNE
ISSUE ONE COVER

REGULAR SERIES

AVENGELYNE
ISSUE TWO COVER
REGULAR SERIES

AVENGELYNE
ISSUE THREE COVER

REGULAR SERIES

AVENGELYNE
ISSUE FOUR COVER
REGULAR SERIES

AVENGELYNE
ISSUE FIVE COVER

REGULAR SERIES

AVENGELYNE
ISSUE 0 COVER
REGULAR SERIES